

TOWNSHIP OF HAMILTON
6101 THIRTEENTH STREET
MAYS LANDING, NJ
December 4, 2017

The regular meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Hamilton, Atlantic County, New Jersey was called to order December 4, 2017 at 6:30 pm with Mayor John Kurtz presiding.

Flag Salute.

Township Clerk Rita Martino certified adequate notice of this meeting was provided pursuant to the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law by posting a notice on the bulletin board in the municipal building and by publication in The Press of Atlantic City on 1/9/17, and the Atlantic County Record on 1/11/17.

Roll Call:

Present: John Kurtz, Rodney Guishard, Art Schenker, Roger Silva.
Absent: Judith Link
Also present: Rita Martino, Township Clerk; Michael Jacobs, Township Administrator;
Robert Sandman, Township Solicitor; Kevin Dixon, Township Engineer

A moment of silence for private reflection was observed. The Mayor asked that everyone remember Robert "Moose" Mattle, who passed away last week.

Guest Presentation: Annual Report from Senior Citizen Advisory Committee (SCAC)

Chairman Diane Fox gave a brief overview of the events of the year, including the Speaker Series, September Health Fair, Hometown Celebration, and Fall Festival. Plans are also underway for an intergenerational program, in which students would work together with our seniors. It was the consensus of the group that the SCAC had a very successful and active year.

Guest Presentation: Donation to the Hamilton Township Police Dept. K-9 Unit from PAL

Carole Wright of the Police Activities League (PAL) presented a donation to the Hamilton Township Police K-9 Unit. She stated that she is hoping to have additional donations in the future. Officer Cory Silvio and her K-9 partner Argos were in attendance to accept the donation, along with several members of the Police Department.

Addition/Deletion of Late Agenda Items

None.

Early Public Comment

None.

Discussions

Public Hearing on 5 year Tax Exemption/Abatement Agreement – SIJ Group, LLC – Block 1029, Lot 1 – 5176 Harding Highway

Troy Adams was sworn in on behalf of the applicant. Testimony was as follows:

Solicitor Sandman: Are you the person here on behalf of the applicant?

Mr. Adams: I am, I'm the Director of Real Estate for NFI, and we own the warehouse at 5176 Harding Highway.

Sandman: And for the record, this is Block 1029, Lot 1? True?

Adams: Yes.

Sandman: And is there a building situated on that property?

Adams: Yes, there is.

Sandman: And can you explain the situation in terms of the building needing rehabilitation?

Adams: Sure, so we purchased, and when I say "we," it's SIJ Group, LLC, which is a real estate entity, we purchased the building in 2001. The building at the time was occupied and remained occupied up until about 2014, at which time the tenant left the building. Just for the record, the building's 152,000 square feet. So, the tenant that was in there was a kind of glass company that used to be part of Wheaton Glass, everybody kind of knows the building as the old Wheaton Glass building. They left in 2014, moved up into North Jersey, and 2014 was right when the economy was doing not so great, so the building sat vacant up until earlier this year. The building had a severely leaking roof that was beyond repair, and just really suffered neglect, there was- it's a metal building,

so there were rust stains that showed through, and it was built for a single user so, tough to find somebody to come in and take the 152,000 square feet.

Sandman: And you put in an application for an exemption under the Ordinance?

Adams: Yes we did.

Sandman: Okay, and tell the Committee what it is your plans are to do in terms of rehabilitation to the building.

Adams: Sure. So we put the application in; the plans are for a new roof, repainting of the building, all sides, all new heat, new loading doors, new office space, a bunch of interior cleanup, we rewired a lot of the building, and separated all the utilities so that it would be more functional for smaller users, 25 to 50,000 square feet.

Sandman: And according to your application, you have a number of tenants in the building currently?

Adams: We do.

Sandman: Could you tell the Board who they are?

Adams: Sure, we have a company called ACM Excel, it's a manufacturer, they make aluminum, they take sheets of aluminum, it is architectural aluminum, it goes on the sides of buildings, so they're in 35,000 square feet. We have a local company that provides services to the boat industry here, something called Mahogany. So they have been able to consolidate and expand their operation, they're in about 52,000 square feet. And then the third tenant is a company called Barrett Outdoor Living, they are the group that bought the old Lenox plant over in Egg Harbor. And from what I understand their business is doing extremely well over there, they're out of space, and so our warehouse provides both finished product and raw material storage for them so they can continue to expand their production.

Sandman: And then according to your application, there were other general warehouse items that valued about \$800,000.00. Is that true?

Adams: So the roof alone was about \$800,000.00, and then there is about another \$1.2 million that's been put into the building. Of the Capital Expenses though, the roof is the majority of that.

Sandman: So the exact number on your application is \$1,935,165.00. Does that sound accurate?

Adams: That does.

Sandman: Now, you are aware of our Ordinance here in Hamilton Township?

Adams: I am.

Sandman: And you're seeking an exemption pursuant to Ordinance #269-26 for the record, this is not an abatement, this is an exemption, and this can be accomplished by resolution, not by Ordinance, and we do not need a tax agreement, which makes it easier for these folks. All right, do you understand giving an opinion to a reasonable degree of certainty?

Adams: I do.

Sandman: It means more likely than not. And do you believe more likely than not, if this were approved, it would maintain or provide gainful employment?

Adams: Yes, I do.

Sandman: Why do you believe that?

Adams: Because without those capital improvements, those jobs would not come to that building.

Sandman: Do you believe to a reasonable degree of certainty that it would assist in economic development?

Adams: I do.

Sandman: Why do you believe that?

Adams: The jobs that are created, the capital investment that's created, we would want to make sure that by investing in the building, that those investments are protected through the exemption.

Sandman: Do you believe to a reasonable degree of certainty it would maintain or increase the tax base?

Adams: Yes, I do.

Sandman: By enhancing the value of the property.

Adams: From an aesthetic and functional point of view, yes.

Sandman: And, finally, do you believe it would diversify and expand commerce within the Township?

Adams: Yes, I do.

Sandman: And that's because of the diversity of the tenants you bring in?

Adams: That's right, it's worked exactly how we hoped. We had some new tenants that were new to the area, and we've expanded some that were already in the town.

Sandman: And will you have other space available for new tenants other than the few that you mentioned?

Adams: We have some office space that's available.

Sandman: And, finally, just for my curiosity, did the fact that the Township developed the Abatement and Exemption Ordinance facilitate your decision to improve this property?

Adams: It did, so, I don't recall the exact date it was that the exemption was kind of first discussed. It was within the last two years, I believe. So quickly thereafter, we started to see the activity and we were able to justify the investment.

Sandman: Mr. Mayor, that's all the questions that I have. I believe that satisfies the requirements of the Ordinance, but that is your call.

Mayor Kurtz: Thank you.

Sandman: Each one of you has the ability to address any questions to the applicant that you desire.

Mayor Kurtz asked and confirmed that the warehouse space has been 100% leased. Mayor Silva commented that it is a pleasure to see the improvements to the building. Mr. Guishard asked about the number of jobs created by this space; Mr. Adams stated about 20 jobs. A brief discussion ensued.

Mayor Kurtz opened the floor to the public.

Harry Rogers of 1069 Morningside Drive asked and confirmed that this action does not affect the taxation and valuation of the land component, nor the taxation of the existing structure, but rather provides relief only to the added improvements. He further asked and confirmed that this is consistent with actions on other properties.

Jim Kerrigan of Mays Landing asked and confirmed that the property is not in the Historic District.

Hearing nothing additional from the public, on the motion of Mr. Silva, second of Mr. Schenker it was moved to close the public portion.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Schenker, Silva

Nay: XXX

Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

Resolution #2017-0451 – Resolution Approving Request for 5 year Tax Exemption in the Industrial Park for Renovation/Repair of the Old Warehouse, Block 1029, Lot 1

Mr. Silva moved, seconded by Mr. Schenker that Resolution #2017-0451 be adopted.

Solicitor Sandman clarified that pursuant to the Ordinance, the application has first been reviewed by the Tax Assessor, and the Assessor has deemed it complete and in compliance with said Ordinance.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Schenker, Silva

Nay: XXX

Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

Proposed County Ordinance Re: Lake Lenape Park

Solicitor Sandman explained that the idea was to allow consumption of alcohol at the park in places and events other than the Wine Festival, which is considered a special event under the current Ordinance.

Mr. Sandman stated that the proposed County Ordinance was reviewed by himself and the Township Clerk, and there are concerns about getting the County to sign off on future events before being approved by the Township. Consequently, he and the Clerk had a conference call with County Counsel Jim Ferguson; the County will institute a procedure whereby a County representative will sign off on event applications before Township approval is sought.

Mr. Sandman further stated that portions of the proposed County Ordinance can and will be out of the Township's control. While the Township wishes to cooperate, they must also adhere to ABC guidelines, which may pose issues with certain types of events. Some discussion ensued. Clerk Martino clarified that Township approval applies only in the case of alcohol sales; events where alcohol is simply served, such as a wedding, would not apply. Therefore, a separate tracking method may be needed, as the Township would not be made aware of such events through the ABC process. A lengthy discussion ensued, including liability insurance requirements for event applicants. Committee agreed that they have no objection so long as the County would institute a policy covering the Township as well as the County for \$2,000,000. It was agreed that Solicitor Sandman would place that recommendation in writing to submit to the County the next day.

Motion of no objection to proposed County Ordinance Re: Lake Lenape Park provided that the County institutes a policy covering the Township as well as the County for \$2,000,000.

Upon motion of Mr. Silva, second of Mr. Schenker it was moved that there is no objection to proposed County Ordinance Re: Lake Lenape Park provided that the County institutes a policy covering the Township as well as the County for \$2,000,000.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Schenker, Silva
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

Repealing Political Contribution Limit Ordinance (will be Ordinance 1867-2017 if introduced)

Mr. Silva stated that this Ordinance was instituted in 2008, and over time it has become clear that the underlying goals are not being met. During campaigns, out-of-County interested parties are donating money to opposition, which in many cases are not reported, creating a loophole. This has changed the whole playing field, so they propose to repeal the Ordinance and adhere strictly to the State Ordinance regarding Political Contribution. Some discussion ensued.

Ordinance #1867-2017 – An Ordinance Repealing Political Contribution Limit Ordinance #1636-2008.

Mr. Silva moved, seconded by Mr. Schenker that the following Ordinance #1867-2017 be introduced on first reading with public hearing to be held December 18, 2017:

Ordinance #1867-2017 – An Ordinance Repealing Political Contribution Limit Ordinance #1636-2008.

Mr. Guishard stated that he does not support repealing the Ordinance, as it is unclear what purpose that would serve. Mr. Schenker stated that many other towns, and the County, have used a similar Ordinance in the past and have since done away with same. The fact that the county has done away with it has brought on a funnel of money through County organizations that are taking advantage of the situation; it is an avenue for these organizations to pump money into a town and, more or less, try to buy elections. Mr. Guishard partially concurred with Mr. Schenker's statements, but maintained that it is unclear how this action would prevent such opportunism. Some discussion ensued. Mr. Silva stated that pay-to-play has created loopholes that are advantageous to out-of-County entities seeking to control the destiny of local politics. Mr. Guishard maintained that the Ordinance was in place to tighten the State guidelines, and repealing it doesn't seem to accomplish anything. More discussion ensued.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Kurtz, Schenker, Silva
Nay: Guishard
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 3-1.

Public Hearing/Adoption of Ordinances

None.

Introduction of Ordinances

Ordinance #1866-2017 – An Ordinance Authorizing Sale of Lots 10,11,12,13, & 14 in Block 395 as Shown on the Tax Map of the Township of Hamilton and Granting to the Owner or Owners of Said Real Property Contiguous to Same the Right of Prior Refusal to purchase such land in the Township of Hamilton, County of Atlantic, and State of New Jersey.

Mr. Jacobs explained that the property is at 6853 Melvin Newton Boulevard, with a minimum bid of \$300.00

Mr. Silva moved, seconded by Mr. Guishard that the following Ordinance #1866-2017 be introduced on first reading with public hearing to be held December 18, 2017:

Ordinance #1866-2017 – An Ordinance Authorizing Sale of Lots 10,11,12,13, & 14 in Block 395 as Shown on the Tax Map of the Township of Hamilton and Granting to the Owner or Owners of Said Real Property Contiguous to Same the Right of Prior Refusal to purchase such land in the Township of Hamilton, County of Atlantic, and State of New Jersey.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Schenker, Silva
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

Award of Bids/Contracts/Change Orders

Resolution #2017-0452 – Resolution awarding contract to Electronic Recycling International, Inc. (ERI) in the amount of \$1.00 for the calendar year 2018 for the monthly collection of TVs, computers, and e-waste, and authorize Mayor to sign same.

Mr. Jacobs explained that there is zero cost to the Township. Special Projects Manager Ingrid Perez stated that we divert 30-40 tons of electronics from our waste stream each year, and that saves us those tipping fees as well. We also get credit for that on our recycling tonnage report each year, which brings money into the Township to enhance recycling efforts.

Mr. Silva moved, seconded by Mr. Guishard that Resolution #2017-0452 be adopted.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Schenker, Silva
Nay: XXX
Abstain:

Motion Carried 4-0.

Resolution #2017-0453 – Resolution authorizing the purchase of a Solar Tech-Silent Messenger III Message Board from Garden State Highway Products, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$18,870.00.

Police Chief Stacy Tappeiner stated that they originally had two sign boards, one of which was a radar board. Their old one went down and cannot be repaired, so this replacement would be both a sign board and a radar board; it would also help with road projects, being a joint purchase between Public Works and the Police Department.

Mr. Silva moved, seconded by Mr. Schenker that Resolution #2017-0453 be adopted.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Schenker, Silva
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

Resolution #2017-0454 – Resolution rejecting bid for Skilled Carpentry received from Warriner’s Construction, Inc. (Bid # 2017-13).

Solicitor Sandman explained that only one bid was received. The bid specification called for hard dollar amounts, and while there were line items with respect to same, there was a footnote that stated “subject to an increase in the union contract.” This would be a material alteration, leaving no alternative but to reject this bid.

Mr. Silva moved, seconded by Mr. Guishard that Resolution #2017-0454 be adopted.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Schenker, Silva
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

Consent Agenda

Motion to authorize posting of Boards and Commissions Vacancies Notice with December 15, 2017 deadline.

Upon motion of Mr. Silva, second of Mr. Guishard it was moved to authorize posting of Boards and Commissions Vacancies Notice with December 15, 2017 deadline.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Schenker, Silva
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

Resolution #2017-0455 – Resolution authorizing the execution of a Shared Services Agreement with the Police Activities League for the use of the Frank Grieco Center.

Mr. Silva moved, seconded by Mr. Guishard that Resolution #2017-0455 be adopted.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Schenker, Silva
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

Resolution #2017-0456 – Resolution of support for the NJDOT plans for replacement of Route 322 Bridge over the Greater Egg Harbor River.

Mr. Silva moved, seconded by Mr. Guishard that Resolution #2017-0456 be adopted.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Schenker, Silva
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

Resolution #2017-0457 – Resolution to approve Employee Identification Card Policy.

Mr. Silva moved, seconded by Mr. Guishard that Resolution #2017-0457 be adopted.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Schenker, Silva
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

Resolution #2017-0458 – Resolution approving a Memorandum of Understanding with the Atlantic County Prosecutor to permit Christopher DeBiase to participate in the Arson Task Force and authorizing Mayor to sign same.

Mr. Silva moved, seconded by Mr. Guishard that Resolution #2017-0458 be adopted.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Schenker, Silva
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

Motion of no objection to the Division of ABC granting a Special Liquor License to Atlantic Cape Community College for their SJ Craft Beer, Food, Spirits and Music Festival to be held June 2, 2018 from 12-5 pm, beer and spirits to be dispensed.

Upon motion of Mr. Silva, second of Mr. Guishard it was moved to authorize no objection to the Division of ABC granting a Special Liquor License to Atlantic Cape Community College for their SJ Craft Beer, Food, Spirits and Music Festival to be held June 2, 2018 from 12-5 pm, beer and spirits to be dispensed.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Schenker, Silva
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

Resolution #2017-0459 – Resolution authorizing the release of 10-year Stormwater Maintenance Guarantee for Wawa Store #488 (Route 40 & Old Harding Highway) in the amount of \$70,000.00 (Travelers Casualty and Surety Company of America Bond #105003653) as recommended by Township Solicitor Robert Sandman upon review.

Mr. Silva moved, seconded by Mr. Guishard that Resolution #2017-0459 be adopted.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Schenker, Silva
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

Resolution #2017-0460 – Resolution authorizing the release of 10-year Stormwater Maintenance Guarantee for Wawa Store #925 (5201 Harding Highway) in the amount of \$75,000.00 (Travelers Casualty and Surety Company of America Bond #105003654) as recommended by Township Solicitor Robert Sandman upon review.

Mr. Silva moved, seconded by Mr. Guishard that Resolution #2017-0460 be adopted.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Schenker, Silva
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

Resolution #2017-0461 – Resolution authorizing release of Westchester Fire Insurance Company Bond #K08465228 in the amount of \$65,508.00 posted as Performance Guarantee for South Jersey Gas Company – Cates Road Solar Facility and Vaporizer Replacement Project (South Jersey Gas), contingent upon posting of a 2-year Maintenance Guarantee in the amount of \$9,826.20, as recommended by Alternate Township Engineer Robert Smith in his correspondence dated 11/20/17.

Mr. Silva moved, seconded by Mr. Guishard that Resolution #2017-0461 be adopted.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Schenker, Silva
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

Motion to authorize preparation of a Contiguous Owner Land Sale Ordinance for Block 390, Lots 5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,22,24,&32 – a .80 acre lot located at Memphis and Sitka Avenues – Minimum \$1,000.00.

Upon motion of Mr. Silva, second of Mr. Guishard it was moved to authorize preparation of a Contiguous Owner Land Sale Ordinance for Block 390, Lots 5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,22,24,&32 – a .80 acre lot located at Memphis and Sitka Avenues – Minimum \$1,000.00.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Schenker, Silva
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

Resolution #2017-0462 – Resolution authorizing release of Performance Guarantee for Cedar Point (Adams Branch Major Subdivision) Phase 4 (US Home Corp./Lennar) (Block 854, Lots 30,42,43) in the amount of \$291,105.18 (Fidelity and Deposit Company of Maryland Bond #08821768) upon posting of a 2-year Maintenance Guarantee in the amount of \$57,909.77 and a 4-year Stormwater Maintenance Guarantee in the amount of \$20,040.00 as recommended by Engineer Steve Filippone in his correspondence dated 11/17/17.

Mr. Silva moved, seconded by Mr. Guishard that Resolution #2017-0462 be adopted.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Schenker, Silva
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

Resolution #2017-0463 – Chapter 159 Resolution to insert item of revenue with off-setting appropriations for Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over Year End Holiday Grant in the amount of \$5,500.00.

Mr. Silva moved, seconded by Mr. Guishard that Resolution #2017-0463 be adopted.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Schenker, Silva
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

Resolution #2017-0464 – Resolution to Approve Budget Transfers as recommended by the CFO.

Mr. Silva moved, seconded by Mr. Guishard that Resolution #2017-0464 be adopted.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Schenker, Silva
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

Personnel

Resolution #2017-0465 – Resolution appointing Arthur Train as a Temporary Full-Time Special Law Enforcement Officer Class II, at an hourly rate of \$20.17, effective 1/1/18, not to exceed 11 months.

Mr. Silva moved, seconded by Mr. Guishard that Resolution #2017-0465 be adopted.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Schenker, Silva

Nay: XXX

Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

Resolution #2017-0466 – Resolution appointing James Sakers as a Class II Special Law Enforcement Officer at \$19.00 per hour, contingent upon successful completion of the background process.

Mr. Guishard moved, seconded by Mr. Silva that Resolution #2017-0466 be adopted.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Schenker, Silva

Nay: XXX

Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

Resolution #2017-0467 – Resolution appointing Daniel Kelly as a Part-Time Building Inspector at \$25.00 per hour, effective 12/11/17, contingent upon successful completion of the background check and pre-employment physical.

Mr. Silva moved, seconded by Mr. Guishard that Resolution #2017-0467 be adopted.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Schenker, Silva

Nay: XXX

Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

Resolution #2017-0468 – Resolution appointing Paul Gramm III as a Part-Time Communications Officer in the Police Department at \$15.30 per hour, contingent upon successful completion of the background process.

Mr. Silva moved, seconded by Mr. Schenker that Resolution #2017-0468 be adopted.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Schenker, Silva

Nay: XXX

Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

Resolution #2017-0469 – Resolution appointing Patricia Daly as a Part-Time Records Clerk for the Police Department at \$14.92 per hour, contingent upon successful completion of the background process.

Mr. Silva moved, seconded by Mr. Guishard that Resolution #2017-0469 be adopted.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Schenker, Silva

Nay: XXX

Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

Motion to accept the resignation of Carl Pitale, Zoning Board Member, 4 year term expiring 12/31/20.

Upon motion of Mr. Silva, second of Mr. Guishard it was moved to accept the resignation of Carl Pitale, Zoning Board Member, 4 year term expiring 12/31/20.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Schenker, Silva

Nay: XXX

Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

Resolution #2017-0470 – Resolution appointing Anthony Johnson as a Temporary Full-Time Laborer at \$15.30 per hour, effective 12/06/17, contingent upon successful completion of the background check and pre-employment physical.

Mr. Silva moved, seconded by Mr. Schenker that Resolution #2017-0470 be adopted.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Schenker, Silva

Nay: XXX

Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

Approvals:

Mr. Silva moved, seconded by Mr. Guishard that the regular meeting minutes of the November 13, 2017 meeting are approved as presented.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Schenker, Silva

Nay: XXX

Abstain:

Motion Carried 4-0.

Mr. Silva moved, seconded by Mr. Guishard that the Executive Session meeting minutes of the November 13, 2017 meeting are approved as presented.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Schenker, Silva

Nay: XXX

Abstain:

Motion Carried 4-0.

Resolution #2017-0471 – A Resolution authorizing payment of approved payrolls and bills-\$1,618,580.00.

Mr. Silva moved, seconded by Mr. Schenker that Resolution #2017-0471 be adopted.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Schenker, Silva

Nay: XXX

Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

Reports

Administrator – Nothing to report. Mr. Silva inquired regarding the investigation into third party inspectors; Mr. Jacobs stated that they are still looking for options.

Solicitor – Solicitor stated tonight’s activity regarding the Tax Exemption is evidence that the actions taken by the Township are successful. He is optimistic that the Tax Exemption/Abatement program will result in another application in January.

Engineer – Mr. Dixon stated the Road Program is well underway, and is about 2/3 complete. He predicts that the remainder will be complete in the next 2 weeks. Some discussion ensued.

Township Committee:

Mayor Kurtz stated that he spoke with someone at the state level and expressed concern with the maps regarding the road work being done on Main Street. He also stated that the roadwork is now expected to end between Christmas and the New Year, due to the fact that hand-digging is required because of outdated information regarding gas, sewage, and water lines. Additionally, there has been indication that the state wants to patch Main Street rather than repave when the work is done. Some discussion ensued.

Mayor Kurtz also mentioned that the Dickens of a Holiday event took place the previous weekend, with over 100 vendors in attendance. He stated that it was a nice day that included an appearance by Santa Claus, and it was good to see such a well-attended event, despite the current traffic issues in town.

Mr. Silva echoed Mayor Kurtz’ comments regarding Dickens of a Holiday. He said that many people stated how much they appreciate all of the nice events in town. He also complimented the Public Works staff for their great work with the Christmas lights in the park.

Mr. Silva also recently attended the League of Municipalities Conference, and was impressed at the number of vendors and the new equipment and products available.

Mr. Schenker also complimented Public Works on the Christmas lights. He expressed regret that he missed last weekend’s event due to illness.

He also commented on the inconvenience of roadwork, stating that it is inconvenient when roads need work, and equally inconvenient when the work is underway. However, we will stay on top of the repairs to make sure the road is properly restored.

Mr. Guishard also attended the League of Municipalities Conference, and stated that it is a fascinating event with scores of lectures and seminars, with Complete and Green Streets being among the

featured topics. There was also a presentation on the Verizon 5G telephone system, which is expected to revolutionize communications.

His recent community activity has included attendance at Dickens of a Holiday, as well as the South Jersey Professionals Society Awards Ceremony, which was held in Somers Point. The ceremony awards scientists, researchers, and technologists for their achievements.

Mayor Kurtz then opened the floor to the public.

Harry Rogers of 1069 Morningside Drive stated that back in 2008 he was a very vocal proponent of the Political Contribution Ordinance, having thought it was a good way to keep politics local. He further stated that it turned out to be a quixotic effort, as it only served to facilitate skullduggery, and it really should be eliminated. He closed by stating that he was puzzled at Mr. Guishard's inability to understand this particular problem, since it is he and his fellow travelers who benefit from this. Mr. Guishard asserted that Mr. Rogers' statement was inappropriate, and the purpose of the Ordinance was to eliminate the problems to which Mr. Rogers referred. Mr. Rogers stated that the problems were only made worse by the adoption of the Ordinance, and he apologized for having been partially responsible for that. Mr. Guishard stated that retracting it does not improve anything.

Public Comment

Hearing nothing additional from the public, on the motion of Mr. Silva, second of Mayor Kurtz, it was moved to close the public portion.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Guishard, Kurtz, Schenker, Silva

Nay: XXX

Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 4-0.

On motion of Mr. Silva, seconded by Mr. Schenker and carried the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Martino, RMC, CMR
Township Clerk