

**OFFICIAL MINUTES  
BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD  
MAYOR AND COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
OCTOBER 8, 2015**

PRESENT: Mayor Norman Schmelz and Council President Thomas A. Lodato, Council members Charles Steinel, Arvin Amatorio, Ora Kornbluth, and P. Christopher Tully,

ABSENT: Hernando Rivera

ALSO PRESENT: Borough Administrator Corey Gallo  
Borough Attorney John Schettino  
Borough Clerk Marie Quinones

Mayor Schmelz called the meeting to order at 8:07 p.m. with the reading of the Open Public Meetings Act Statement, "In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, the notice requirements have been satisfied. Meeting dates for the year are confirmed at the Annual Meeting. The Annual Notice is sent to the Record, Star Ledger, Twin Boro News, and Cablevision, placed on two Municipal Bulletin Boards and is on file in the Office of the Borough Clerk."

The Salute to the Flag was led by Councilperson Kornbluth.

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS/BOROUGH ENGINEER**

**A. Engineering & Inspection Status Report**

Borough Engineer Dave Gleassey explained that the contractor for the DPW Roof Replacement has completed installing the roof and trim finishes. We are working on addressing the last of the punch list items, and gave them a deadline until tomorrow.

The contractor for the Cleaning and Video Inspection of Sanitary Sewer Trunk Line has completed the cleaning itself, and the reports/cd's have been received and are under review. The contractor has cleaned the siphons on Prospect Avenue, Anderson Avenue, and at Cooper's Pond. Cleaning of additional sewer pipe is being looked at using the money remaining in the contract.

The milling and paving of Merritt Avenue and Phelps Avenue is complete. All of the punch list items have been completed. The final change order is being prepared for submitted for submission to NJDOT for review and approval. Upon approval by NJDOT, the maintenance bond will be ordered and submitted to the Borough along with the final notice for review and approval.

The milling and paving operations have been completed for the resurfacing of Bradley Avenue. The final invoice and Maintenance Bond from the contractor are before the Mayor and Council for consideration.

The contract has been completed for Cooper's Pond Park Trails Phase 2. The change order and final invoice and the Maintenance Bond were approved and accepted by the Borough at the last meeting.

Mayor Schmelz inquired if the fence at the park was looked into. He explained that there were two posts for a fence placed in the swamp area, and looks incomplete.

Mr. Gleassey indicated that he will look into it further.

The milling and paving of Somers Avenue is complete. The final invoice and Maintenance Bond were approved and accepted by the Borough at the last meeting.

The contract for West Church Street/ CSX Railroad Drainage has been awarded to Colonelli Brothers Inc., the low bidder. Final approval was received from NJDOT. A pre-construction meeting will be arranged upon confirmation that CSX has received and processed the agreement.

Mr. Gleassey stated that bids for Highgate Terrace will be received on October 13<sup>th</sup>.

The Borough was awarded \$149,000 in Municipal Aid Grant for the Woodbine St. project. The CDBG application which is due tomorrow will be submitted by Millennium Strategies.

The Borough was awarded a grant from Bergen County Community Development in the amount of \$76,000. Remington & Vernick is preparing a professional service proposal for review by the governing body.

Glenwood Drive is in the section of town that PSE&G will be performing the energy strong improvements. The DPW has been maintaining a sag in the sanitary sewer system. Remington & Vernick submitted a professional service proposal to replace the sanitary main and remove the sag in the system.

Mr. Gleassey stated that bids were received on Tuesday for Twin-Boro field improvements. He explained that the project was broken down into two (2) parts, one part is the fence, and the other is the in-clay field. The low bid was received in the amount of \$181,000, and the grant received is in the amount of \$134,000. The governing body can review the proposals received and decide how to proceed.

B. Professional Services Proposal – 2015 Biennial Certification Proposal for Submission Number 2

The Borough Engineer explained that this certification must be completed each year and the report must be provided to DEP in December.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Tabled Ordinance
  - 1. Ordinance 15-2480

ORDINANCE 15-2480 – AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE POSITION OF FIRE DIRECTOR OF THE BERGENFIELD FIRE DEPARTMENT – Tabled on August 4, 2015

No action was taken.

- B. Safe Exchange Program

Chief Madalone stated that she received a letter from the Borough Attorney regarding the Safe Exchange program, and it is determined that the exchanges can take place in the main lobby.

Councilperson Steinel inquired if the cameras are functioning to the extent that the video will be viewable and the transaction will be heard.

Chief Madalone explained that the parties can use the intercom to inform the department they are there for an exchange.

Councilpersons Amatorio and Kornbluth inquired if the hours can be limited. Chief Madalone confirmed that the hours can be limited till 10:00 p.m. or until the Borough Hall building is closed.

Councilperson Kornbluth inquired if anyone contacted the JIF to ensure the insurance rates will not increase.

Borough Attorney Schettino explained that the Borough will only be liable to provide a safe location to conduct business.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### A. Review of Best Practices

The Chief Financial Officer, Richard Cahill, explained that the governing body was provided a copy of the Best Practices Checklist for their review and consideration. He explained that the goal is to answer a series of questions and score 80% in order to maintain nearly \$99,000 in State funding. Mr. Cahill reported that the Borough scored 84%.

##### B. Residential Lock Boxes

Chief Madalone stated that she received an e-mail from Mayor Schmelz regarding the Lock Box program that is being offered to residents in River Edge. Chief Madalone explained that the program would be targeted for the elderly and disabled, and would be placed in an inconspicuous location with a combination for Officers to access in case of an emergency. She further explained that the department reviewed the program, and will need to look into it further to understand the search and seizure process.

#### ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Borough Administrator Gallo stated that the paving project on New Bridge road is coming to an end; the workers will be doing the striping and closing the project. He explained that he has been in communication with PSE&G, and learned that they will be running electrical lines in order to place that area on an additional grid to improve their service.

Mr. Gallo commented that he has met with DPW to discuss how to improve leaf collection in town. He explained that the department will be using grant funds to purchase a Tink bucket to collect leaves. He stated that the department may need to lease the truck for a month prior to purchasing in order to cover the entire leaf collection period.

He stated that the Borough is anticipating additional funds from the grant received for the DPW roof replacement project, and is hoping to complete a reallocation of funds for the salt shed.

Mr. Gallo stated that the County will be having a bid opening for the Brine system on October 15<sup>th</sup>, and so the Borough will be a part of it through the co-op agreement.

He further explained that the DPW radio system is challenged because the low band is giving the laborers a difficult time communicating with the base when they are dumping. Mr. Gallo stated that he spoke with Goosetown communications, and learned that it would cost more repair the communication than to upgrade to a newer system. He stated that the lease at a sixty (60) month basis would be about \$2,000 a month.

Councilperson Steinel explained that leasing the radios would be similar to leasing copiers and that because of improvements in technology, the Borough would constantly have newer radios.

Councilperson Kornbluth inquired the cost for purchasing the radios.

Councilperson Steinel stated that other towns have paid about five (5) million.

Mayor Schmelz inquired what would happen with the old radios.

Mr. Gallo stated that if the Borough returns the radios, the cost for the lease will be a cheaper price.

Mr. Gallo also stated that bids were received for the Twin-Boro Fields improvements. He explained that based on the cost and grant funds received for the project, the governing body will have to determine whether to proceed with both parts of the project, or focus on the fencing. Mr. Gallo recommended that the Borough focus on the fencing to obtain the better quality, and then work on the rest of the park next year.

Mayor Schmelz inquired if the Borough can try to put in a soccer field at the park.

Mr. Gallo explained that he is aware of a program that will provide a grant for soccer fields, and will look into it further.

#### MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORT

Councilperson Kornbluth

The BVAC has responded to 1,065 calls to date, and have two new members. The BVAC has an outstanding response for someone that was hit on New Bridge road. The Recreation Department started the expansion of the Lou Challenger program, and has about 24 kids in the program. The Halloween Parade will be on October 24<sup>th</sup>, and Holiday in the Park will be on December 6<sup>th</sup>. The department has already started working on next year's Family Fun Day.

Councilperson Steinel

The updates in DPW were covered under the Administrator's report. The Office of Emergency Management had several resignations, which were covered at the meeting tonight.

Councilperson Tully

The Finance Committee is in the process of coordinating their meeting schedules from November through January.

Councilperson Lodato

The Fire Department has responded to 250 calls, which had 399 during the same period last year. He welcomed the new members and junior members to the department. The Fire Department and Library Board are having their meetings this evening. The Planning Board will be meeting on October 26<sup>th</sup> to review and adopt the Re-examination Report.

Mayor Schmelz

Learned that the Library Board hired a new director, who will be leaving the Mahwah library to work for Bergenfield.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| A. Rivard/Bergenfield Bears Boys Basketball Team | RE: Coin Toss Request – 10-31-15  |
| B. Biamonte/N. Queen Street                      | RE: Block Party Request – 10-17-15 – 2:30 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.   |
| C. St. Joseph's WIC Program                      | RE: Request to use Court Room – 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday of every month in 2016 – 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. |
| D. Martin/BHS Girls Basketball Team              | RE: Coin Toss Request – 11-7-15   |

Motion by Councilperson Steinel , second by Councilperson Kornbluth, and all members present voting in favor, to approve Correspondence Items A through D.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Diana Flagg, 131 Hillside Avenue, inquired if the meeting on Tuesday was cancelled for another meeting to take place in Borough Hall. She also inquired who was in attendance at the other meeting, and what was discussed.

Borough Administrator Gallo stated that the Work Session meeting was not cancelled, and had been scheduled on a Thursday night because of the religious holiday.

Council President Lodato stated that the Fire Committee met with the Fire Board of Directors.

Ms. Flagg inquired if the Administrator will not receive health benefits, and be given an additional \$5,000 stipend. She also inquired how the new furniture is being paid. Ms. Flagg explained that she is uncomfortable with people coming to Borough Hall to exchange items purchased because she is concerned for the safety of the employees.

John Smith, 50 Hallberg Avenue, inquired why the Borough is doing business with out of town shops, when the same items could be purchased from businesses that are members of S.I.D. He also inquired the status of the Swim Club, and asked if the Borough sent them a letter. Mr. Smith asked that if the pile of steel will be removed from Whittaker Park after being there for four (4) years. He also stated that the Borough is working on sidewalk repairs, but needs to take action on the sprinklers a homeowner placed in the Borough right-of-way.

Fred Sahlberg, 32 Merritt Avenue, inquired why the Borough Administrator will receive an additional \$5,000 stipend for medical benefits, when employees that are in Police and Fire medical benefits cannot accept their benefits from municipalities.

Borough Administrator Gallo confirmed that he is not in the Police and Fire medical system.

Barbara Gerin, 41 Homestead Place, stated that she is also concerned with the Safe Exchange program, because there could be many things crossing hands. Ms. Gerin stated the idea makes her uncomfortable. She also commented that she is against the Swim Club, and cannot believe the amount of money that will be put into this.

## OFFICIAL BUSINESS TO BE ACTED UPON:

### A. CONSENT AGENDA

**CONSENT RESOLUTION 15-165.** All matters listed below are considered by the Governing Body to be routine in nature. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If any discussion is desired by the Governing Body, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered separately.

- a. **15-305/**To Pay Bills
- b. **15-306/**To Approve Raffle Application – RA 1289
- c. **15-307/**To Approve Bingo Application – BA 175
- d. **15-308/**To Amend Resolution #15-263 – Outdoor Holiday Display
- e. **15-309/**To Accept Resignation – OEM Coordinator & Communications Officer – Tom Rose
- f. **15-310/**To Accept Resignation – OEM Committee Member – John Nashmy
- g. **15-311/**To Appoint OEM Committee Member – John Goodin
- h. **15-312/**To Authorize Pay Certificate No. 2 – Sylvan Avenue Sidewalk Program
- i. **15-313/**To Authorize Final Payment and Release of Retainage for Resurfacing of Bradley Avenue

- j. **15-314/**To Accept Two (2) Year Maintenance Bond for Resurfacing of Bradley Avenue
- k. **15-315/**To Approve Change Order No. 1- Resurfacing Program of Bradley Avenue
- l. **15-316/**To Authorize Refund – Tax Overpayment – 297 New Bridge Road
- m. **15-317/**To Authorize Refund – 2014-2015 Tax Court Judgement – 16 North Washington Avenue
- n. **15-318/**To Appoint DPW Part-Time Employee – Connor Williams
- o. **15-319/**To Authorize Proposal – Lerch, Vinci, Higgins, LLP – Pension Deductions
- p. **15-320/**To Approve Amendment – Municipal Shared Services Defense Agreement – Affordable Housing
- q. ~~**15-321/**To Appoint CDBG Representative and Alternate~~
- r. **15-322/**To Authorize the Acceptance of an Offer to Purchase Bond
- s. ~~**15-323/**To Authorize Endorsement – FY'2016 CDBG Bergen Avenue Improvements~~
- t. **15-324/**To Hire Per Diem School Crossing Guards for School Year 2015-2016

Motion by Councilperson Kornbluth, second by Councilperson Tully, to approve the Consent Resolution as amended.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Councilperson Steinel:	aye	Councilperson Kornbluth:	aye
Councilperson Amatorio:	aye	Councilperson Tully:	aye
Council President Lodato:	aye	Councilperson Rivera:	absent

Motion by Councilperson Steinel, second by Councilperson Amatorio, that Resolution #15-321 be approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Councilperson Steinel:	aye	Councilperson Kornbluth:	abstain
Councilperson Amatorio:	aye	Councilperson Tully:	recuse
Council President Lodato:	aye	Councilperson Rivera:	absent

Motion by Councilperson Kornbluth, second by Councilperon Steinel, that Resolution #15-323 be approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Councilperson Steinel:	aye	Councilperson Kornbluth:	aye
Councilperson Amatorio:	aye	Councilperson Tully:	recuse
Council President Lodato:	aye	Councilperson Rivera:	absent

## B. RESOLUTIONS

**15-325/** To Appoint Ryan Shell as OEM Coordinator

Motion by Councilperson Steinel, second by Councilperson Tully, that Resolution #15-325 be approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Councilperson Steinel:	aye	Councilperson Kornbluth:	aye
Councilperson Amatorio:	aye	Councilperson Tully:	aye
Council President Lodato:	aye	Councilperson Rivera:	absent

**15-326/** To Approve Contract – Borough Administrator

Motion by Councilperson Tully, second by Councilperson Kornbluth, that Resolution #15-326 be approved.

On a roll call, the vote was recorded as follows:

Councilperson Steinel:	aye	Councilperson Kornbluth:	aye
Councilperson Amatorio:	aye	Councilperson Tully:	aye
Council President Lodato:	aye	Councilperson Rivera:	absent

Mayor Schmelz stated that these were very good appointments.

#### COUNCIL COMMENTS

The Mayor and Councilmembers thanked everyone for attending the meeting and wished all a good night.

#### CLOSED SESSION

RESOLUTION **15-327**/Authorizing the Governing Body to Enter into Closed Executive Session to discuss:

- A. Personnel
  - 1. Fire Department Personnel Issues
  - 2. Police Chief Agreement
  - 3. DPW Supervisor Agreement
  - 4. Administration Office Personnel Matters
- B. Attorney-Client Privilege
  - 1. Affordable Housing Update
- C. Contracts
  - 1. Police Department Equipment
- D. Collective Bargaining Agreement
  - 1. DPW Bergenfield Employees Association Contract Negotiation Update

Minutes will be taken of the meeting and released to the public at the time that the matter is resolved. After Closed Executive Session, the Mayor and Council will reconvene in the Executive Chambers to adjourn this public meeting.

On a motion by Councilperson Kornbluth, second by Councilperson Steinel and all present voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned to the Closed Session in the Executive Chambers at 9:30 p.m.

#### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, on a motion by Councilperson Kornbluth, second by Council President Lodato and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Quinones  
Acting Borough Clerk