

CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES

July 2, 2024

5:00 P.M.

***MEETING WAS HELD VIA "ZOOM" APPLICATION WITH MEETING ID 349 802 0449

Mayor Jakubowski called the meeting to order.

MAYOR'S STATEMENT: "Notice of this meeting has been provided in a legal notice published in the Courier Post and the Retrospect; and posted in accordance with Title 10 of the New Jersey Statutes Annotated, specifying a 5:00 p.m. meeting time; and that formal action may or may not be taken at all Caucus and Commissioners meetings. Please be advised that this meeting is not being videotaped tonight."

Roll Call: Mayor Jakubowski, Commissioner Lee and Commissioner Whitman were in attendance.

Those additionally in attendance were Administrator David Taraschi, RJ Callaway, Assistant Superintendent PW, Solicitor Jennifer McPeak, Tom Tassi, Police Chief, Borough Engineers Steve Bach and Craig Reilly, Danielle Ingves, Municipal Clerk, Library Board President, Kurt Bicking, OEM Director, Fire Chief Patrick Slemmer, Brian Conte, EMT, John Dymond, Tax Assessor

Commissioner Lee made a motion to approve minutes from May 21, 2024, seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in Favor-motioed carried.

PRESENTATION: Lisa Hibbs, CEP, and Vicki Molloy of Concord Energy Services started their presentation at 5:02 and ended at 5:29. The presentation provided details regarding the New Jersey Community Energy Aggregation Program. Presentation materials provided. No action was taken.

ORDINANCES FOR ACTION: N/A

RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION:

2024-103 AUTHORIZING AN AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION 2024-81 for the Submission of the State of New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety Division of Criminal Justice Safe and Secure Communities Program.

The foregoing resolution was approved by motion of Commissioner Lee; seconded by Commissioner Whitman. All in Favor Motion Passed.

Department Reports:

Borough Administrator – Met with Haddon Heights today to talk about the shared service agreement for public works and offered our proposal for contract. They are going to take it back to their Counsel to be vetted. We certainly are not going to discuss the details in public. We expect to hear back later in the month.

Assistant Superintendent of Public Works – Report attached. Working on normal day to day operations and preparing for the July 4th festivities. Asked for updates on the tree ordinance adjustments, draft for road restoration and amendment to our dumpster ordinance.

Per Solicitor, the tree ordinance update is ready, and she will get it over to Municipal Clerk for meeting later this month. As far as the dumpster placement ordinance, she is not familiar, but will check with Sal when he returns from vacation.

Spoke with Craig and Steve at Bach Association regarding the specs on the generator at Village Court. Steve Bach agreed that he will get with RJ and work on the replacement generator.

Per D. Taraschi, clarification for the dumpster ordinance, when a company comes out and places a dumpster in the street with no blocking under it and a newly paved road, when it is really hot, the dumpster is causing damage to the roadway. We need to huddle together to put a provision in there to either post some type of escrow or to properly place that on a hot asphalt road with sufficient blocking on the road.

Per S. Bach, they have the Runnmede sample, and they have other drafts going on to expand road/streeting opening ordinance from the county that will be more restrictive than even Runnmede. We will circulate that in the coming weeks.

Chief Finance Officer – No report.

Borough Clerk – Report attached. All cyber training has been completed as of last week.

Tax Collector – No report. (Excused - Vacation)

Tax Assessor – Nothing to Report.

Police Chief - Submitted written report. Will discuss additional concerns in closed session.

Fire Chief – Report submitted. Alarms answered in June: 43. Alarms to date: 216

Preparing for July 4 festivities. Will provide a punch list for recommended work to the vehicles in the fire house soon.

OEM – Report submitted. There have been two meetings to prepare IAP for the fireworks on the 6th. Plan will be ready to go by Saturday as we adjust to anything that may come up last minute. Will be assisting Haddonfield with their fireworks as well.

EMS – Report submitted. Audubon had a total of 118 calls in June. Total calls for the month: 245 Provided ambulance for the high school graduation.

Municipal Court Administrator – Report submitted. (Excused – Vacation)

Construction Code/Zoning Report - Report submitted.

Engineer – Report submitted. Next phase of municipal aid we got an award from NJDOT. We will be scheduling the pre-construction meeting for week of July 15. That is the final block of East Pine and first block of Hampshire coming off Kings Highway. So that project should be getting started within the month.

FY2025 NJDOT Trust Fund, Resurfacing Hampshire Road – Phase III & Additional Road(s) – Submitted application for this project before the July 1 deadline.

Solicitor – Item for closed session. Will get the information for the tree ordinance to you all to add to the agenda for the next meeting.

Library – Summer Reading Program is open. No Saturday hours during the summer. There will once again be a reading competition between the local towns. Check out their website and social media for additional programs being offered.

The Recreation Center – YMCA Summer Camp starts June 17 and ends August 30. Signs up are ongoing. Their numbers have doubled since last year. The link is on the Borough and YMCA websites.

June – Five private parties & YMCA Camp started June 17.

July – Two private parties and YMCA Camp.

As a follow up to Com. Lee's question last month regarding income vs. expenses to the rec center, D. Ingves stated that she has the income numbers, but the public works overtime isn't as easy to calculate for this building only, but will work on that report and provide in the near future.

Sustainable Audubon – They have been doing a tree photo contest and they had 17 entries. The winner will be announced on Saturday prior to the fireworks. Sustainable Audubon will be the Guest of Honor for the parade on July 4th. Look for them at the front of the parade.

Discussion: Mayor Jakubowski proposed looking into an RFP for grant management services. This will provide for the opportunity to apply for additional grants for police, fire, OEM etc. There are companies that research, write and manage the grants. We can start with an RFP without awarding just to see what the costs are for budgeting purposes. Some companies do not even charge unless grant money is received. There are many options. Commissioner Lee and Commissioner Whitman were receptive to the idea and would be interested in obtaining pricing.

Board of Commissioners Reports:

Commissioner Lee – On Chief Tassi's report, he was pleased to read about the success of our canine dog. The capturing and finding illegal drugs both in our town and assisting other towns. Chief Tassi commented that he has started and will continue to provide the success of the canine union in his reports.

Also expressed disgust in the Rotary Club flag display vandalism and shows a total lack of respect for our town and veterans and shame on who was responsible for that. Mayor Jakubowski added on that we are currently looking to add additional cameras in that area and around town. Vandalism is happening in other parts of town. The Chief and his team are putting together a plan so that we have more eyes. It is unfortunate that we have to live that way.

Commissioner Whitman – Nothing on the financial end. Shared his outrage as well regarding the vandalism and the flags and it is embarrassing to have that happen. Thank you to the police for your hard work on addressing those issues and resolving those concerns.

Addressed to D. Ingves on the rec center on how happy he was to see the amount of kids playing hockey on the newly paved hockey rink. It was a great site to see.

Per the Mayor, the County's Open Space team was out and was very impressed at all the work that we have done on the park. C. Reilly, Engineer, was sure to highlight all the different sources of funding we used. The Borough funding the rec center itself, the Open Space funds for numerous years and the municipal aid fund for the walk way around the park. They were happy to the money and investment that we have been putting into the Audubon Family Park.

Mayor Jakubowski – It is the July 4th holiday in the Most Patriotic Town in America. Thursday we have the parade and athletic events, Friday Murray Trout, Fathers' Association and the Lion's Club are having an Independence Day Dance and on Saturday for the fireworks is a food festival event starting at 6:00 pm with the live band starting at 7:00 pm and the fireworks to end the evening. I want to thank the Fathers', the Legion and the Lions Club for creating an event for this

year. Thank the police, the fire department, OEM, EMS and the volunteers. The hours that go into this event by staff and volunteers is in the 1000s. I hope the residents understand this and take a minute to thank them all.

Open Session: Commissioner Lee made a motion to open the meeting to the public; second by Commissioner Whitman. All in favor; motion carried.

John from the Retrospect asked for clarification regarding the tree ordinance and the revisions as well as what transpired with the flags.

- No significant update on the tree ordinance, per Jen McPeak, Solicitor. It is just clarification on one sentence.
- Per Chief Tassi, we have a Flags for Heroes Memorial that is sponsored by the Rotary Club. Last week, some individuals tore down and burned flags. It is under investigation. We have cameras there, but they aren't great, but the cameras do give us some leads.

No additional comments from the public.

Commissioner Whitman made a motion to close the meeting to the public; seconded by Commissioner Lee. All in favor; motion carried.

RESOLUTION - CLOSED SESSION: Resolution 2024-104 for Personnel Discussion.

Motion was made by Commissioner Whitman and seconded by Commissioner Lee. All in favor motion carried.

Closed Session started at 5:52 pm.

Commissioner Whitman made motion to come out of closed and seconded by Commissioner Lee. All in favor motion carried at 6:15 pm.

Commissioner Whitman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Lee. All in favor; motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:16 pm.

Mayor Jakubowski

Commissioner Whitman

Commissioner Lee

ATTEST:

Danielle Ingves, Municipal Clerk

DATE APPROVED :