

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Bound Brook, in the County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, held via Go To Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on November 9, 2021.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Robert P. Fazen with a reading of the Open Public Meetings Law Statement following by the Pledge of Allegiance and Opening Prayer given by Councilman Jake Hardin.

ROLL CALL

Upon roll call, the following were recorded present:

Mayor Robert Fazen
Councilman President Abel Gomez
Councilman Jake Hardin
Councilman Richard Jannuzzi
Councilman Brad Galeta
Councilman Vinnie Petti
Councilman Anthony Pranzatelli

Also in attendance:

Borough Administrator, Hector Herrera
Borough Clerk/ Assistant Administrator, Jasmine D. Mathis
Borough Attorney, Arlene Perez, Esq.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion by Council President Abel Gomez, seconded by Councilman Anthony Pranzatelli, the minutes of October 26, 2021 were approved upon a roll call vote.

Roll Call: Aye: Abel Gomez, Jake Hardin, Richard Jannuzzi, Brad Galeta, Vinnie Petti,
Anthony Pranzatelli

Nay: None

AUTHORIZE EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion by Councilman Anthony Pranzatelli seconded by Council President Abel Gomez, the Mayor and Council went into executive session regarding litigation.

ADVERTISED HEARING OR SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Deputy Chief Kevin Rivenbark expressed his condolences to the Romano family for the passing of John Romano, a former Police Officer with the Bound Brook Police Department in the early 70's who was known for breaking up bar fights. Council President Vinnie Petti stated John Romano was his first cousin and expressed Romano's impression on his political career.

Mayor Fazen reported United Nations statistics regarding covid deaths throughout the world.

PRESENTATION OF COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, ETC.

There wasn't a presentation of communications or petitions.

GREETINGS FOR COMMENTS AND INVITATIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Elizabeth Jannuzzi, 514 East High Street, expressed her condolences to the Romano family. She further expressed her concerns for cannabis in the Borough and how the Borough will be perceived. Ms. Jannuzzi further expressed concerns of litter throughout the Borough and around development properties and traffic. Ms. Jannuzzi requested who is the acting Police Chief and asked how many Police Officers are currently in the department. Council President responded Deputy Chief Kevin Rivenbark is in place and state two new Police Officers were hired to replace the retirements of officers.

Kathleen Kleinbeck, 518 Dalay Place, stated she contacted the Somerset County Historical Society regarding the proposed Hamilton Street Development. She expressed the county's Historical Society may have concerns regarding the cemetery behind the property. Mayor Fazen advised the site was not listed on the national registry and he'd be willing to speak with the society to hear their concerns.

Linda Brnicevic, 20 Talmage Avenue, expressed concerns of the cannabis within the Borough. She thanked the Special Improvement District for flowerpots along Main Street and further asked if additional flowerpots can be placed in the area. Councilman Pranzatelli advised the request will be made with the Special Improvement District.

OPENING OF BIDS

Mayor Fazen announced the 2022 Request for Professional Services submissions are due November 10, 2021.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES – FIRST READING

Ordinance 2021-029 An Ordinance Amending and Supplementing the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Bound Brook, in the County of Somerset, Chapter XXI, Land Use, to Regulate the Location of Certain Cannabis Establishments Within Certain Zoning Districts Within the Municipality

Upon a motion by Council President Abel Gomez, seconded by Councilman Anthony Pranzatelli, Ordinance 2021-029 was approved on first reading upon a roll call vote. The public hearing was scheduled for December 28, 2021.

Roll Call: Aye: Abel Gomez, Jake Hardin, Brad Galeta, Anthony Pranzatelli

Nay: Richard Jannuzzi, Vinnie Petti

ORDINANCE ON FINAL READING AND CONSIDERATION- SECOND READING

Ordinance 2021-027 An Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Chapter 17, Property Maintenance, Section 17-26.5, Registration Fees, Term of Registration; Renewals and Section 17-30.4, Fees, of the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough of Bound Brook

Upon a motion by Council President Abel Gomez, seconded by Councilman Jake Hardin, the floor was opened to the public. There were no comments from the public. Upon a motion by Council President Abel Gomez, seconded by Councilman Anthony Pranzatelli, comments were closed to the public.

Upon a motion by Councilman Jake Hardin, seconded by Council President Abel Gomez, Ordinance 2021-027 was approved upon a roll call vote.

Roll Call: Aye: Abel Gomez, Jake Hardin, Richard Jannuzzi, Brad Galeta, Vinnie Petti, Anthony Pranzatelli

Nay: None

Ordinance 2021-028 Bond Ordinance Providing for the Acquisition of Personal Protective Equipment for the Fire Department, in and by the Borough of Bound Brook, in the County of Somerset, State of New Jersey; Appropriating \$260,000 Therefor and Authorizing the Issuance of \$247,000 Bonds or Notes to Finance Part of the Cost Thereof

Upon a motion by Councilman Anthony Pranzatelli, seconded by Council President Abel Gomez, the floor was opened to the public. Kathleen Kleinbeck, 518 Dalay Place, asked if federal funds can be used to offset the cost of the equipment. Borough Administrator, Hector Herrera advise grant funds will be used to offset the cost in addition to purchasing the equipment with another municipality. Upon a motion by Councilman Anthony Pranzatelli, seconded by Council President Abel Gomez, comments were closed to the public.

Upon a motion by Councilman Anthony Pranzatelli, seconded by Council President Abel Gomez, Ordinance 2021-028 was approved upon a roll call vote.

Roll Call: Aye: Abel Gomez, Jake Hardin, Richard Jannuzzi, Brad Galeta, Vinnie Petti, Anthony Pranzatelli

Nay: None

INTRODUCTION/DISCUSSION OF RESOLUTIONS

Upon a motion by Councilman Anthony Pranzatelli, seconded by Councilman Jake Hardin, Resolutions 2021-221, 223 through 225 were unanimously approved upon a roll call vote.

Roll Call: Aye: Abel Gomez, Jake Hardin, Richard Jannuzzi, Brad Galeta, Vinnie Petti, Anthony Pranzatelli

Nay: None

2021-220 Resolution Authorizing the Release of a Performance Bond for Ridge Apartments

Upon a motion by Councilman Jake Hardin, seconded by Council President Abel Gomez, Resolution 2021-220 was approved upon a roll call vote.

Roll Call: Aye: Abel Gomez, Jake Hardin, Brad Galeta, Anthony Pranzatelli

Nay: Richard Jannuzzi, Vinnie Petti

2021-221 Resolution Authorizing Budget Transfers

2021-222 Resolution Authorizing Treatment Works (TWA) Application for The Hopkinson, Located at 26 West Main Street, Block 1, Lots 38.02, 39, 39.01, 40 and 41

Upon a motion by Councilman Jake Hardin, seconded by Councilman Anthony Pranzatelli, Resolution 2021-222 was approved upon a roll call vote.

Roll Call: Aye: Abel Gomez, Jake Hardin, Brad Galeta, Anthony Pranzatelli

Nay: Richard Jannuzzi, Vinnie Petti

2021-223 Resolution Authorizing Refund of 2021 4th Quarter Property Taxes to Corelogic in the Amount of \$16,914.34

2021-224 Resolution Authorizing Refund of 2021 4th Quarter Property Taxes to Wells Fargo in the Amount of \$2,556.87

2021-225 Resolution Authorizing the Transfer of Public Property to Somerset County for Public Auction

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Borough Administrator, Hector Herrera, requested the Council to approve Resolution 2021-228, Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Police Vehicles through Somerset County Improvement Authority. Upon a motion by Council President Abel Gomez, seconded by Councilman Vinnie Petti, Resolution 2021-228, was approved upon a roll call vote.

Roll Call: Aye: Abel Gomez, Jake Hardin, Richard Jannuzzi, Brad Galeta, Vinnie Petti, Anthony Pranzatelli

Nay: None

Borough Administrator, Hector Herrera, requested the Council to approve resolution 2021-229, Resolution Authorizing the Borough Administrator to Participate in an Online Auction to Bid on Block 13.02, Lot 49. Upon a motion by Councilman Jake Hardin, seconded by Council President Abel Gomez, Resolution 2021-229 was approved upon a roll call vote.

Roll Call Aye: Abel Gomez, Jake Hardin, Richard Jannuzzi, Brad Galeta, Vinnie Petti, Anthony Pranzatelli

Nay: None

Councilman Vinnie Petti requested the Council to consider waiving the sign permit fee for churches and non-profit organizations to obtain banners. Upon a motion by Council President Abel Gomez, seconded by Councilman Richard Jannuzzi, to waive the permit fee for churches and non-profit organizations, the motion failed upon a roll call vote.

Roll Call: Aye: Richard Jannuzzi, Vinnie Petti

Nay: Abel Gomez, Jake Hardin, Brad Galeta, Anthony Pranzatelli

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Upon a motion by Council President Abel Gomez, seconded by Councilman Jake Hardin, Resolution 2021-226 was unanimously approved upon a roll call vote.

Roll Call: Aye: Abel Gomez, Jake Hardin, Richard Jannuzzi, Brad Galeta, Vinnie Petti, Anthony Pranzatelli

Nay: None

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR COMMENT

Linda Brnicevic, 20 Talmage Avenue, requested clarification of the Borough Administrator's request to participate in an online auction. She further asked what department will receive the new vehicles. Ms. Brnicevic requested when the cannabis ordinance is presented to the Planning Board that a map be provided identifying the proposed areas and their zoning designations.

Kathleen Kleinbeck, 518 Dalay Place, stated she preferred electric vehicles be purchased instead of hybrid. She further commented that medical cannabis should be considered rather than recreational cannabis given the Borough's proximity to Robert Wood Johnson Hospital.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,
Jasmine D. Mathis
Borough Clerk