

April 8th, 2014 – AGENDA SESSION

President Baxter called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and read the Open Public Meeting Statement:

The notice requirements provided for in the “Open Public Meetings Act” have been satisfied. Notice of this meeting was properly given in a notice which was transmitted to the Times of Trenton and the Trentonian, filed with the Clerk of the Township of Ewing and posted in the Ewing Township Municipal Complex, all on the 1st day of April, 2014.

THE PUBLIC WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL DURING THE “STATEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC” SEGMENT OF THE MEETING. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE REQUESTED TO SIGN IN ON SHEET PROVIDED IN THE FRONT OF THE ROOM. ALL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC WILL BE DIRECTED TO THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT, WHEN ADDRESSING THE COUNCIL, PLEASE GIVE YOUR NAME AND YOUR ADDRESS.

THE COUNCIL INVITES AND ENCOURAGES PARTICIPATION BY THE PUBLIC IN ITS MEETINGS, HOWEVER A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC MAY UTILIZE FIVE MINUTES OF TIME FOR REMARKS AND QUESTIONS, UNLESS OTHERWISE ENGAGED IN A DIALOGUE WITH A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL, ANY FURTHER REMARKS OR QUESTIONS BEYOND THE TIME LIMIT MUST BE AUTHORIZED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL.

ROLL CALL

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| ▪ Ms. Keyes-Maloney – Present | Jim McManimon, Administrator |
| ▪ Mr. Schroth – Present | Joanna Mustafa, CFO |
| ▪ Ms. Steward – Present | Maeve Cannon, Attorney |
| ▪ Ms. Wollert – Present | Kim Macellaro, Municipal Clerk |
| ▪ President Baxter – Present | |

President Baxter stated that the first item on the agenda is a presentation by the Township’s Grant Writer, Susan Caruso Green, from Resource Development Network LLC.

Ms. Caruso Green presented to Council a two page overview of all the activities that grant monies paid for in the past year.

Ms. Caruso Green then stated that she foresaw that the upcoming year will be different. The first year was spent bringing Ewing on board with registration and finishing reports. The coming year will focus on identifying the needs of the Township by working closely with Council and finding other sources of government funding for the Township.

President Baxter asked about the status of the application for a new senior citizen bus and then asked Ms. Caruso Green if she knew if we would be successful receiving this grant.

Ms. Caruso Green replied that the application has been submitted; it is very competitive and said that she does not have any idea as to whether or not the Township will be successful in receiving this grant.

The Administrator added that many towns and other government entities are all vying for similar grants.

President Baxter stated that in the future some of our focus will be on Hollowbrook and asked if that would fall under the senior category.

Ms. Caruso Green replied no, Hollowbrook would qualify for HUD funding as a neighborhood center that serves a limited low-income clientele.

The Administrator stated that we met with a HUD representative and indicated to him that moving forward we are going to focus on all of Hollowbrook, not just senior related improvements.

Ms. Caruso Green said that in 2014 we will be creating a Five Year Plan for HUD funding; and will be submitting Action Plans every year.

Ms. Keyes-Maloney asked, beyond HUD, what are the other sources of grant funding that we may pursue.

Ms. Caruso Green responded that one opportunity is to get money to improve roofs to make it safer for children to walk to school. Another source is transportation alternatives that would also solidify relationships with the College of New Jersey. There is also the opportunity to learn about Ewing's needs as far as revitalization is concerned.

Ms. Caruso Green reminded Council and the Public that there is going to be a Public Meeting next week for the 2014 HUD Action Plan.

President Baxter thanked Ms. Caruso Green.

DISCUSSION

- 1. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP TO ENTER INTO A REVOCABLE LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH EASEL, A NONPROFIT ANIMAL WELFARE ORGANIZATION, FOR PLACEMENT OF TRAILER AT SHELTER.**

The Attorney explained that the trailer is already in place to help EASEL facilitate their operations. The Attorney then explained that this agreement is not a lease, rather it is permission to place their trailer there and it is revocable.

The Mayor added that the State is going to use EASEL's operation as a model. The Mayor then explained that the goal is for the Township to get out of the animal shelter business once a regional animal shelter is built.

There were no comments or questions from Council.

- 2. A RESOLUTION AWARDED CONTRACT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTATION SERVICES TO MAGA SUSTAINABILITY, LLC IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,810 FOR SUSTAINABLE EWING GREEN TEAM VISIONING AND STRATEGIC PLAN PREPARATION.**

President Baxter explained that this falls in conjunction with the grant that we received earlier for the Green Team to start their strategic planning to move us forward toward our goal of sustainability.

The Attorney explained that this is a contract for consulting services; preparation of a strategic plan for the Green Team along with participation at public meetings.

Vice President Keyes-Maloney stated that the consulting work will center around what the members of the community would like to see Ewing be regarding being a sustainable community in the future.

There were no further questions or comments from Council.

- 3. A RESOLUTION APPROVING CHANGE ORDER #2 FINAL FOR THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING BATHROOM RENOVATIONS TO PJM MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS.**

The Administrator explained that this is a decrease in the contract of about \$2,400.

There were no questions or comments from Council.

- 4. A RESOLUTION TO REFUND PROPERTY TAXES FOR THE FIRST AND SECOND QUARTER OF 2014 FOR SELECTED SOUTH FORK TOWNHOUSE PROPERTIES.**

President Baxter explained that this follows from the explosion that took place in March. This is to refund taxes for homes that are uninhabitable.

There were no questions or comments from Council.

5. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) FORD F350 PICK UP TRUCK FOR USE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS FROM CHAS S. WINNER D/B/A WINNER FORD AS PER STATE CONTRACT T2101

The CFO explained that this is a utility vehicle for Buildings and Grounds.

The Administrator added that the one we have had for many years has seen its last days.

Councilwoman Wollert asked if this one could be used as a snow plow.

The CFO replied that “snow plow” is part of the State contract title, but we will not be using it as a snow plow.

Councilwoman Wollert asked why are we not using it as a snow plow or for brush pick-up.

The Administrator replied that it cannot be used in those ways because of the equipment that will be in it.

There were no further questions or comments from Council.

6. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, TO AMEND CHAPTER 211 SALE OF USED GOODS AND EQUIPMENT TO PROVIDE FOR ELECTRONIC REPORTING TO POLICE OF USED GOODS OR EQUIPMENT PURCHASED BY DEALERS

The Attorney explained that this was requested by the Police Department. It provides that the Township’s licensed used good dealers enter information into the electronic database as well as fax the information to the Police Department as is currently required.

There were no questions or comments from Council.

7. AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, TO AMEND CHAPTER 225 TRAFFIC REGULATIONS, TO PROHIBIT LEFT TURNS FROM THERESA STREET ONTO ROUTE 31

The Attorney stated that this heading was amended to add: “..... and to prohibit left-hand turns at duly approved site plans or left turn prohibitions placed at a right of way.”

The Attorney then explained that one condition of a site plan approval is that left hand turns are prohibited; we place a sign there. However, when the Police Department tickets someone for a traffic violation, they need to cite an Ordinance. The Township did not have a list in the Ordinances of all the places in the Township where left hand turns are prohibited. This Ordinance serves two purposes: it is a generalized prohibition of all left hand turn prohibitions that the Police Department can cite and it prohibits left turns from Theresa Street onto Route 31 as requested by the State.

Councilwoman Wollert stated that she recalled that there was a left turn sign from Theresa Street onto Route 31 a few years ago and then asked if we had just put it up without an Ordinance.

The Attorney replied that it was her understanding that the State had put up that sign.

The Attorney then remarked that the name of the supermarket mentioned in the Ordinance, with Council’s approval, will be changed from Food Town to Shop Rite as Food Town is no longer at that site.

There were no further questions or comments from Council.

8. A BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING, IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF \$5,994,176.10 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$5,694,467.29 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF.

The CFO stated that this is consistent with our capital plan that is in our introduced budget.

The Mayor said that this is an attempt to keep updated with our equipment as the equipment has been neglected for the past eight years; the municipal building has been neglected for twenty-five years.

The Mayor said and the CFO confirmed that there will be no net increase in the debt payment.

The Mayor then stated that everything has a cost, if you do not fix the roof, there will be issues with the interior.

The Mayor emphasized that we are putting together a maintenance schedule to make sure we do not wind up in the same situation again.

The Mayor then discussed many of the individual items in the capital budget with the majority being the replacement of older equipment.

Councilman Schroth asked the Mayor if he knew what the police vehicles taken out of service will draw at auction.

The Mayor replied that he did not know, at most three to four thousand. Most are not running – so parts, scrap metal value.

Vice President Keyes-Maloney stated that this is a nice balance of public safety needs and is also future looking with the Silvia Street upgrades. It is great that the Administration has set up a schedule to replace vehicles so that we will not be in a situation with equipment breaking down.

Vice President Keyes-Maloney stated that she comprehensively supports the choices that were made.

President Baxter said that he wanted to let the Department Heads and the Public know that we hear you. There were lengthy debates on this. President Baxter said that he is glad we are addressing some neglected areas such as the fire departments. It is a compromise and a good balance; there is no waste in there.

President Baxter then said that he appreciates all the hard work that the CFO does and for being stringent while allocating money. President Baxter stated that he supports this capital budget wholeheartedly.

The Mayor then mentioned the pot hole repair and road paving projects that will take place.

Councilwoman Wollert stated that she is glad to see that we are going back on a schedule; it makes it easier, to be able to plan and also it will help in developing grant applications.

Councilwoman Steward asked if the bleachers mentioned are moveable, to be able go to different events.

The Mayor responded that the bleachers are moveable to a certain extent but this is to replace the old wooden bleachers that are non-compliant out at the ball fields. We are also moving forward with replacing the bleachers at the ESCC.

There were no additional questions or comments from Council.

All discussion items were approved for action.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council President Baxter presented the Consent Agenda for review.

- 1. A Resolution Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to Pay Bills in the Amount of \$5,219,657.18 and to Pay Supplemental Bills per Resolution #14R-44 in the Amount of \$334.47.**
- 2. A Resolution Authorizing a Refund, as Recommended by the Tax Collector, for Overpayment in the amount of \$55.30 for April 1, 2014 sewer bill to Harris, Barry & Chasonnay, 16 Stratford Avenue, Ewing, NJ, 08618, for property owner Harris, Barry & Chasonnay, for Block: 122.01 Lot: 552 also known as 10 Kern Avenue, for overpayment of April 1, 2014 sewer bill.**

3. **A Resolution Authorizing the Conduct of an On Premise 50-50 Cash Raffle Sponsored by the Junior League of Greater Princeton on May 3, 2014.**
4. **A Resolution Authorizing the Conduct of an On Premise Merchandise Raffle Sponsored by the Junior League of Greater Princeton on May 3, 2014.**
5. **A Resolution Authorizing the Conduct of a Bingo Sponsored by The Credit Union of New Jersey on June 6, 2014.**
6. **A Resolution Authorizing the Conduct of an On-Premise Merchandise Raffle Sponsored by The Credit Union of New Jersey on June 6, 2014.**
7. **A Resolution Authorizing the Conduct of an On Premise 50-50 Cash Raffle Sponsored by PTA Incarnation School on November 8, 2014.**
8. **A Resolution Authorizing the Conduct of an On Premise Merchandise Raffle Sponsored by PTA Incarnation School on November 8, 2014.**
9. **A Resolution Authorizing St. John's Baptist Church to hold a Block Party/Road Closing on July 19, 2014 (with a rain date of July 20, 2014) for a Car Show.**

There were no questions or comments from Council and the Consent Agenda was approved for action.

ORDINANCE(S) FOR FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION

(None for this Meeting)

ORDINANCE(S) FOR SECOND READING, PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL ADOPTION

1. **AN ORDINANCE FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2014 TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14) (2014)**

There were no questions or comments from Council.

STATEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Peter Boughton (119 Florence Avenue) said that he is here as the Chair of the Sustainable Green Team and said that he wanted to speak in support of Maga Consulting being chosen. Mr. Boughton thanked the CFO for being part of the interview process. Mr. Boughton then invited some members of the Public, Council and Administration to a "Visioning" Session at the College on Saturday June 7th. Mr. Boughton also thanked Susan Caruso Green for helping the Green Team get the \$10,000 grant that Maga will be paid from. Mr. Boughton also thanked Ms. Caruso Green for looking into other innovative progressive programs.

Juan Arce (11 Lincoln Court, Floor Two – Hamilton Township) stated that he represents taxi companies in Ewing/Hamilton and his own company Alma Taxi and is here to address a series of issues that are becoming progressively more discouraging for the taxi owners and drivers in Ewing and Hamilton.

Mr. Arce stated that the taxi industry in the City of Trenton has become monopolized and is aggressively extending its reach outside the borders of Trenton. Mr. Arce said that the Taxi Inspector for the City of Trenton, Mike Castiello, has been harassing Ewing Township's licensed taxis for over two decades. Mr. Arce then gave a number of examples of this harassment.

Mr. Arce requested that the Township Council show concern and act to protect the taxi business in Ewing by enforcing the local taxi ordinances, and to create the position of Taxi Inspector for Ewing and Hamilton.

President Baxter stated that his concerns have been heard. President Baxter then stated that we have met with the taxi owners and also with the County to try to find a resolution to this situation. President Baxter then stated that it is probably going to be an ongoing process.

President Baxter stated that you cannot pick up in Trenton but you can drop off.

Mr. Arce replied according to the law of both Trenton and Ewing you can drop off, but not according to Mr. Castiello.

Councilwoman Wollert commented that a number of years ago a program was developed in which Trenton refused to participate, to regulate, so Ewing and Hamilton came together for the inspection program.

Councilwoman Wollert stated that she wanted to review the Ordinances as she believes that you should be able to drop off a fare in the City of Trenton.

Mr. Arce stated that no conversation with Trenton will help as this has been going on for twenty years, and then said that the only thing we can do is mirror what Trenton is doing through legal means.

Councilwoman Wollert asked how does Mr. Castiello know to come to a particular place where someone is being dropped off.

Mr. Arce replied that Mr. Castiello sets up the Ewing taxi drivers by having someone call the Ewing taxi companies.

Councilwoman Wollert stated that it is something that needs to be looked into.

Councilman Schroth asked Mr. Arce for confirmation, that Mr. Arce just stated that Mr. Castiello stops taxi drivers even though he has no police authority.

Mr. Arce replied that it happened to him. Mr. Castiello drove behind him and waved a badge. Mr. Arce then stated that the first time it happened he stopped because he had no way of knowing that he was not an officer in an unmarked car.

Councilman Schroth added that he is familiar with this situation as in the past he represented a number of taxi drivers.

Mr. Arce added that the only thing we can do is have an Inspector and also Ewing's Office needs additional personnel to manage the taxis.

Vice President Keyes-Maloney stated that this Body has heard you and will take this to the Administration and we will do what we can to affect change outside of our jurisdiction.

Mr. Arce asked to whom does he submit a petition.

President Baxter replied that you can submit the petition to the Clerk's Office.

Ron Prykanowski (16 Thurston Ave.) stated that in your budget there is a line item for \$30,000 for a food pantry. Mr. Prykanowski then asked why is the Township going into the food pantry business when we have plenty of religious organizations that run food banks at various times of the year.

The Administrator replied that the Township is not going into the food pantry business. This program is not new, it was called Concerned Citizens in the past and is at Hollowbrook. It is strictly a food pantry; food is bought from Mercer Street Friends. The Administrator explained that there are a number of people who use the program that have a comfort zone in going to Hollowbrook and do not want to go anywhere else, so we are going to continue the program.

Mr. Prykanowski then commended the Mayor for the replacement of the vehicles and for the maintenance program for the municipal building. Mr. Prykanowski then asked if there is also going to be a maintenance program for these vehicles.

The Mayor responded that we have addressed that. There is going to be a signed log for the various maintenance requirements.

Mr. Prykanowski then asked about a line item in the Capital Budget for \$2,000,000 for road repair - a down payment for the development center. Mr. Prykanowski stated that if you are bonding a down payment that is five percent which would be \$40,000.

The Administrator replied, no, this is a down payment for the Silvia Street completion - to pave Silvia Street back to the water tower. It is the Township's contribution for the development of the GM site.

Mr. Prykanowski then said that he believes it would be beneficial to the public if a narrative was attached to similar projects like this in the Budget so the public can more easily understand what is going on.

Mr. Prykanowski and the Administrator then discussed whether or not the Township had enough fire / EMS equipment in place to handle the needs of the Township when the GM site is built out.

CLOSED SESSION

(None for this Meeting)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Baxter asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Schroth so moved, seconded by Ms. Wollert. It was agreed to by unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Jennifer Keyes-Maloney, President

Kim Macellaro, Municipal Clerk