

February 12, 2019 – 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 2nd day of January 2019.

THE PUBLIC WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL DURING THE “STATEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC” SEGMENT OF THE MEETING. A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC MAY SIGN IN ON THE SHEET AT THE FRONT OF THE ROOM AND UTILIZE FIVE MINUTES OF TIME FOR REMARKS AND QUESTIONS. ALL QUESTIONS SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT. WHEN ADDRESSING THE COUNCIL, PLEASE GIVE YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.

ROLL CALL

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

DISCUSSION

1. A BOND ORDINANCE RE-APPROPRIATING \$315,000 PROCEEDS OF OBLIGATIONS NOT NEEDED FOR THEIR ORIGINAL PURPOSES IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR A SPLASH PAD AND SITE IMPROVEMENTS AT EWING SENIOR COMMUNITY CENTER IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING, IN THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY

The Administrator said that this re-appropriation is in reference to the splash pad which will be built at the Ewing Senior & Community Center. There were three bids. The low bid was about \$625,000. About \$500,000 is leftover from the Mercer grant. This reallocation will make up the cost of building the splash pad which is expected to be ready the second week of July. A pump house also needs to be built for the splash pad but it is not part of this. That project cost is about \$40,000.

President Baxter asked if a separate company will build the pump house or will it be built in-house.

The Administrator replied that the Township is not building it. This reallocation will cover the cost of the splash pad and some of the cost for the pump house. Right now, the pump house is a separate bid project.

Councilwoman Steward said that this re-appropriates \$315,000 from old capital and then asked where is the other \$300,000 coming from.

Vice President Keyes-Maloney replied – Mercer at Play.

The Administrator added that this will be the other big expense with the Mercer at Play grant.

President Baxter explained that the Mercer at Play grant was a matching \$500,000 grant. The Township put up \$500,000 for a total of \$1,000,000. Some of it was allocated for basketball courts and site improvements at Moody and some was used for the splash pad at Hollowbrook. The remainder will go towards this splash pad.

The Administrator added that the company with the low bid is not the same company that had the low bid for the Hollowbrook splash pad.

There were no additional questions or comments from Council. There were no questions or comments from members of the Public.

Council President Baxter announced that he is doing Item Number Three next since the weather is so bad and Mr. Mladenetz is here.

3. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A PUBLIC DONOR AGREEMENT WITH THE CYO OF MERCER COUNTY

The Attorney explained that this is a fairly standard agreement which is renewed annually with the CYO. They provide programs out of the Hollowbrook Center. There is a matching portion of \$14,100 which the Town will have to appropriate to meet the grant. There is also a lease for that portion of Hollowbrook used by the CYO for its programs.

Tom Mladenetz (Executive Director, CYO) thanked Council for allowing him to speak about the program. This is the CYO's eleventh year operating the program at the Hollowbrook Community Center. Some may recall, back in 2008, the County and the State asked the CYO to take over a program that was operating at Hollowbrook for many years - the Mercer Childcare Program. They encountered some financial difficulties and decided to close their doors. The CYO took over the program and rebuilt it. Mr. Mladenetz thanked the Township for all of the renovations done at Hollowbrook. Being closed for a year and a half was a challenge but the program has been rebuilt and enrollment is now at the level it was prior to the closing. The CYO runs a nationally accredited preschool program at Hollowbrook. They have fifty-five children ages three to five. During the summer months, they operate a camp for school age children; about sixty-five kids participate in that program. In his annual report to Council, Mr. Mladenetz identifies the percentage of Ewing residents - about two-thirds are Ewing residents. This Resolution is to support subsidized child care. The CYO has a contract with the State of New Jersey which is administered locally with Child Care Connection. To qualify, certain criteria needs to be met - work at least thirty hours a week, or in a job training program or going to school full-time - and meet financial criteria. There is a sliding fee scale - the co-payment is based on family size and family income. Parents pay and then the CYO goes out to local governing bodies. Ewing has always been very supportive. Mr. Mladenetz further described the operation of the program including how the CYO partners with the Ewing School District, the College of New Jersey and corporations. The CYO also participates in the federal Foster Grandparent Program. Being a long established non-profit, the CYO is eligible to apply for and to receive private grants which are used for programs not in the normal operating budget such as field trips. The CYO also feeds each child breakfast, lunch and an afternoon snack throughout the year and during the summer camp. Mr. Mladenetz said that it is a high quality program that he and the CYO staff are proud of. The CYO has found a great home for the past eleven years and are proud to partner with Ewing Township. The CYO could not do what they do without this kind of relationship. Mr. Mladenetz said that he hopes Council approves the Resolution and then asked Council if they have any questions.

President Baxter thanked Mr. Mladenetz for the program and all that the CYO does. The program is needed and said that since he has been on Council, it has been a program near and dear to his heart. President Baxter said that he appreciates all that Mr. Mladenetz and his great staff do.

Mr. Mladenetz thanked President Baxter for his kind words.

Vice President Keyes-Maloney thanked Mr. Mladenetz for consistently providing Council with the annual report. It gives Council an idea of what the organization is doing prior to his appearance before Council.

Councilwoman Wollert said that she is so pleased to have been able to support this program for all these years. Initially, there were questions, but it has worked out beautifully for the Town.

Mr. Mladenetz said that he appreciates that and said that it seems like a long time ago. Over the years, the CYO has worked well with the Administration and Recreation. It is a good team approach. Mr. Mladenetz again thanked Council because he knows that the Township invested a lot of resources into upgrading the facility. The families appreciate it.

The Administrator and Mr. Mladenetz briefly discussed Township representation in the CYO Hall of Fame.

Mr. Mladenetz added that the CYO has a wide reach and a wide scope of programs. People know them. The CYO has always done certain things well. But, as a result of a lot of good partnerships, they are trying to expand and reach more people. Mr. Mladenetz thanked everyone again.

There were no additional questions or comments from Council. There were no questions or comments from members of the Public.

President Baxter jumped to Agenda Item Number Eight because Ms. Mullooney trekked all the way out here in this weather.

8. A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING, NEW JERSEY, IN SUPPORT OF THE TOWNSHIP'S PARTICIPATION IN THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION'S COMMUNITY WILDLIFE HABITAT CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Councilwoman Steward said that she brought this Resolution to Council at the request of the Green Team. It is a new program that the Town is participating in - the National Wildlife Federation's Community Wildlife Habitat Certification Program - where the Township encourages residents, businesses, and public spaces to be mindful and deliberate when creating their green spaces; that they are wildlife friendly. The National Wildlife Federation created a helpful checklist so concrete steps can be taken. As a Community, the goal is to publicize this, get interested parties involved, and share the information with people who want to take act. Councilwoman Steward mentioned that she works at a non-profit that has a facility in Ewing. She shared the information with the landscape architect and asked if they would be interested in following some of these principles. These are not huge things, but small things that can make a big difference in terms of sustaining wildlife in the Community. Councilwoman Steward added that, as with so many things, this comes as a result of the hard work of the Green Team and, especially the Chair, Joanne Mullooney.

Joanne Mullooney (20 Alexander Drive) said that there has been some success. The Green Team registered for the program as a community late summer and has been working to create website and publicity outreach materials. The Green Team will be running a couple of programs in the next month or two to get people involved and hopefully invested in the program. The National Wildlife Federation has two separate programs. One is for homeowners who can become certified on their own property if they follow the Federation's precepts - provide food and water, shelter from the elements, cover from predators, and places to raise the young - and if the homeowner gardens, garden sustainably. That is the first step. If enough Ewing properties are registered, then Ewing can become recognized as a community that promotes wildlife. At this point, Ewing is registered in the program and has joined about two hundred communities across the country. The Town needs to accumulate points with the total number of points needed based on population. Ewing needs a total of two hundred fifty in terms of registered properties and one hundred fifty education and outreach points. At this point, Ewing has about sixty-five in each category. It is hoped that with outreach more residents will register their properties. The Green Team also hopes to certify the pollinated garden at the ESCC. Ms. Mullooney said that what is also great about this is that it will help with Sustainable New Jersey.

President Baxter asked how many Sustainable New Jersey points Ewing would receive if become certified.

Ms. Mullooney replied - ten points. The Green Team is particularly interested in the area of wildlife. A couple of years ago, for the last certification, Council adopted a Resolution in support of the New Jersey Wildlife Action Plan. This is taking it to the next level.

Councilwoman Steward commented that what she likes about this and a lot of the Sustainable New Jersey stuff is that it makes it actionable for people who have good intentions but do not know where to start. You do not have to do everything on the checklist, but if you do ten of the things, it will make a real difference.

Ms. Mullooney added that the Green Team has talked about the problem of disappearing wildlife and loss of biodiversity. It is a huge problem and anything that can be done, no matter how small, can only help.

President Baxter commented that he does like talking with people about Ewing being a Sustainable Town.

Ms. Mullooney said that the Green Team will be coming to Council with other things. Councilwoman Steward recommended that Council read the Green Team's Annual Report prepared by Ms. Mullooney which was emailed last week. It is overwhelming to see how much this group does each year.

There were no additional questions or comments from Council. No other members of the Public were present.

2. A RESOLUTION CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

President Baxter stated that February is usually celebrated as Black History Month. He thanked the Clerk for helping him put together this Resolution and then read portions of it. The Council President added that today, in black history, the great Boston Celtic Bill Russell was born and yesterday, in black history, Nelson Mandela was finally freed from prison after twenty-seven years. A lot of strides have been made, but there are still a lot of strides that need to be made going forward. President Baxter said that he knows Council supports this and will do whatever it can to make this town and this country a better place.

Councilwoman Steward said that she is grateful for President Baxter bringing this up and is especially glad to see the forthright acknowledgement that historical injustices and inequalities remain. Some people like to believe that we are in some sort of post-racial world. If we can acknowledge head-on that inequalities remain, we have a chance to address these inequalities head-on in a forthright way.

There were no additional questions or comments from Council. No members of the Public were present.

4. A RESOLUTION AWARDED RJR ENGINEERING CO., INC. CONTRACTORS & ENGINEERS A CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$608,535.00 FOR SPLASH PAD & SITE IMPROVEMENTS AT THE EWING SENIOR COMMUNITY CENTER

President Baxter said that this is the follow-up to Item Number One which re-appropriated the funding.

The Attorney said that this was publicly bid. Three bids were received. Prices are listed in the Resolution. The award is being made to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder which happens to be the lowest bidder. The Engineer found that the bidder is compliant with all laws and specifications and recommends the award. President Baxter asked the Administrator, once the splash pad is put in, to keep track of pool membership to see if the addition of the splash pad caused an uptick in pool membership.

The Administrator replied that Hollowbrook did see an increase but they also have the CYO there during the day. St. John's Baptist Church and another group paid to use the facility and Hollowbrook is closed on weekends to allow for rental income. One draw of the splash pad is for people with young children who perceive that it is safer than the kids' pool that used to be there. At the ESCC, the Township cannot get rid of the kids' pool because it is historically protected. People may have to be encouraged to use the splash pad.

President Baxter said that he is quite sure there will be an uptick; let's just hope for great weather. The Council President commented that he is glad the Township still supports the pool system and allows residents this opportunity. Although it is costly, it is a service the Town should provide. It is something people enjoy. Anything that the Town can do to get youngsters out there, whether they are working or enjoying exercise, is worthwhile.

The Administrator said that the new minimum wage law, although it will not effect kids' programs this summer, will go forward. It will also effect others such as Schafer and the Boys and Girls Club. Summer staffing was discussed today. The Township will most likely go with the people coming back and a few more. Most everybody else is already above minimum wage.

Vice President Keyes-Maloney asked if the Administration plans to increase to the base minimum even though it does not have to be done this year.

The Administrator replied – no, at least not until the Budget is known.

Vice President Keyes-Maloney responded that it was the opinion of the Board that it should be increased.

The Administrator replied that he is aware of the opinion, but the Town is looking at the Budget.

Vice President Keyes-Maloney responded that she is aware of what the numbers are.

The Administrator added that the Town is waiting for the revaluation numbers and will go from there.

Vice President Keyes-Maloney said that this will be discussed again.

President Baxter said that this pool issue has been ongoing for the past three years. Everyone needs to be mindful that the Township must have a pool system.

There were no additional questions or comments from Council. No members of the Public were present.

5. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PERFORMANCE BOND RELEASE FOR JAMES SANOCKI, 262 CLAFLIN AVENUE (BLOCK 179/LOT 336) – EWING ENGINEERS REMINGTON & VERNICK R&V #1102-I-094

President Baxter said that this is a standard performance bond release. The Administrator said that the project, a college rental property, is finished. The Attorney added that they have to post a two year maintenance bond after the performance bond release to guarantee that the site improvements standup.

There were no questions or comments from Council. No members of the Public were present.

6. A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP OF EWING TO REDUCE THE PERFORMANCE BOND(S) OF TJC AT EWING – 60 EWINGVILLE ROAD – (BLOCK 105, LOTS 1) – EWING ENGINEER REMINGTON, VERNICK & ARANGO ENGINEERS RV&A #1102 I 078

The Administrator said that these are the single family homes being built off of Old Ewingville Road. Four have been built, seven more are under contract with the most expensive being \$500,000.

There were no questions or comments from Council. No members of the Public were present.

7. A RESOLUTION APPOINTING/REAPPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

President Baxter said that this is adding another member – Ms. Kimberly Owens. This will fill the Board.

There were no questions or comments from Council. No members of the Public were present.

BILLS LIST

1. A Resolution Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to Pay Bills in the Amount of \$5,817,437.47 and to Pay Supplemental Bills per Resolution #19R-16 in the Amount of \$281,841.29.

President Baxter noted that check number 78240 in the amount of \$168,614.49 is being replaced with check number 78347 in the amount of \$56,204.83 which reflects a four month payment to Central Jersey Waste. They are paid three times a year at \$56,204.83 for a total amount of \$168,614.49. Because a Budget has not yet been adopted, the whole amount could not be paid so this is for the first quarter.

The Administrator stated that it is a monthly payment.

A brief discussion followed. The Administrator explained that the new contract is for over \$600,000 per year.

Councilwoman Steward commented that because there is no budget, the Township is paying month-to-month until the new budget is in place.

Council President Baxter clarified that \$56,204.83 is a monthly payment to Central Jersey Waste. President Baxter asked if the Bills List Resolution needs to be adjusted.

The Clerk responded – no, the CFO put in the replacement today.

The Vice President said that the right amount is in there, it is just the description because the Township is making a month-to-month payment versus a four month payment.

Councilwoman Steward said that there is an ambulance rental in the Supplemental Bills List and then asked what happened to the ambulance.

The Administrator explained that at one point the Township had no ambulances as both needed to be repaired (one is now back on the road). The new ambulance approved last year will be delivered next month. Trenton and West Windsor were responding to calls in Ewing. The Township needed to rent an ambulance. The Town will have three ambulances once repairs are completed and the new ambulance is delivered.

There were no additional questions or comments from Council. No members of the Public were present.

CONSENT AGENDA

Council President Baxter presented the Consent Agenda for review.

1. Approval of Agenda Session Minutes for January 8, 2019; Approval of Regular Session Minutes for January 8, 2019
2. A Resolution Authorizing the River Horse Brewing Company to Hold a 6K Road Race

President Baxter stated that the minutes of January 8th need to reflect \$2500 in New Business Number Six because everyone was saying \$2400 when discussing the resolution.

The Attorney explained that the discussion was about veterinary services. The original resolution had the number of clinics as opposed to a dollar threshold. Council amended the language to the dollar threshold but the number in the certification of funds was different from what was stated on the record - a \$100 difference. The dollar threshold should be what the CFO certified to, not what was stated. The correct amount was in play but just incorrectly stated on the record.

The Council President said let the record correctly reflect that the January 8th Regular Session Minutes have been updated to show the correct amount - \$2500.

Councilwoman Steward said that the January 8th Regular Session Minutes will not actually be changed. The minutes from this meeting will reflect that the record was corrected.

The Attorney said – correct.

There were no additional questions or comments from Council. No members of the Public were present.

All Items were approved for Action.

ORDINANCE(S) FOR FIRST READING AND INTRODUCTION

(None for this Meeting)

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

(None for this Meeting)

COMMISSION & COMMITTEE REPORTS FROM MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

Vice President Keyes-Maloney said that the Student Art Show at the Elks on the 27th was well attended. A lot of the art from the show is now on display at the Municipal Building. On February 21st, there may be a “Meet the Artist” night at the Municipal Building for students who were not able to make the Art Show. In conjunction with the Recreation Department, there was a special art night at the Senior Center for Valentine’s Day. They did chalk art. The Recreation Commission had the opportunity to look at the Department’s proposed budget for the year. There was also a discussion regarding the pool schedule and fees and a robust discussion related to the seasonal staff and the minimum wage.

Councilwoman Steward said that on Monday the 25th a workshop is being held at the Library on “Gardening for Wildlife in a Suburban Setting” from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

President Baxter asked if there is going to be a rain barrel workshop.

Councilwoman Steward replied that that has been talked about. The challenge is accessing the rain barrels.

Vice President Keyes-Maloney said that in the past there had been a grant through either Home Depot or Walmart.

Councilwoman Steward added that it is one of the most frequently requested programs.

President Baxter said that the Planning Board discussed a possible Shade Tree Ordinance. The Mayor wants to set-up a Task Force to examine this further because the Township does not cut down trees that are on residents' properties and many people think that the curb line is Township property. It will still have to come before Council to become an Ordinance.

The Planning Board approved an application to renovate an old building on Sixth Street for a bodega distribution center. It seems to be a decent use and it will also clean-up that site. The Board also approved an application by ETS for more on-site parking as they move from being a warehouse to more of an office.

The Administrator gave Council an update on the revaluation. All residential letters were mailed out Friday night. They have not quite finished the commercial buildings. They met over the weekend and those letters should go out this week. Homeowners can appeal, assuming they let the people into their home to inspect their property. Residents need to call the company to schedule an appointment. Dates have been set aside at the Senior Center.

Everything needs to be completed by March 15th and then after that the Administration can present their Budget to Council at the second meeting in March.

President Baxter said that this reval will bring the Township up to one hundred percent valuation. Right now, the Township is at about seventy percent.

The Administrator said that the Township had dipped as low as sixty-two. The Administrator then described what homes are going for in some areas of the Town and the rent being charged for the new apartment complex on Scenic Drive. The Assessor will not be a part of this public discussion. Residents are being referred to the company to schedule an appointment to discuss their revaluation. When everything is all done, if a homeowner wants to appeal, then the Assessor's Office will be part of that discussion with the County Tax Board.

Vice President Keyes-Maloney asked if the company is doing several public intercessions.

The Administrator replied – yes. Many dates are set aside at the Senior Center.

Councilwoman Steward suggested that those dates be reposted on the website as it has fallen off the front page as a number of announcements have been posted since then.

The Administrator said that Lawrence Township did their reval a year or so ago. The penny in Lawrence is now in the \$450,000 to \$475,000 range while Ewing's penny is currently \$199,000. The Administrator expects an adjustment – the rate will go down but the value of the penny will go up.

President Baxter asked how the value of the penny is calculated.

The Administrator replied that he cannot say until the revaluation is complete.

The Attorney replied that since Ewing has not had a revaluation since 1992, the overall evaluation of the entire Township will rise dramatically, but the rate will go down because everything nets out to the same budget number.

The Administrator cautioned homeowners, when they receive the letter, not to compare it to the old rate.

The Attorney added that that is the most frequent mistake. Everyone applies the old rate to the new valuation. The most important thing Council can stress to their constituents is that there will be an adjusted rate once the final revaluation number is set to the same budget number.

The Administrator stated for the record that if someone did not let the company into their home, which was their right, then they cannot appeal the amount they were assessed.

Councilwoman Steward added that they can appeal to the County Tax Board.

President Baxter asked when will the final rate be known.

The Administrator replied – by March 15th but it will not take effect until the 3rd or 4th quarter.

There were no additional questions or comments regarding the revaluation.

There were no additional Commission and Committee Reports.

There were no additional announcements.

NEW BUSINESS

(None for this Meeting)

STATEMENTS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

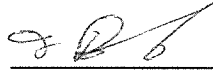
No members of the Public were present.

CLOSED SESSION

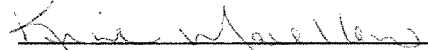
(None for this Meeting)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, President Baxter asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Keyes-Maloney so moved seconded by Ms. Wollert. It was agreed by unanimous voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.



Kevin Baxter, President



Kim J. Macellaro, Municipal Clerk