

**REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 8, 2014
7:00 P.M.**

Mayor Brown called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. read the following statement and led the flag salute.

NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS GIVEN BY ANNUAL NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE ATLANTIC CITY PRESS, HAMMONTON GAZETTE, EGG HARBOR AND HAMMONTON NEWS ON JANUARY 8, 2014, AND POSTED AT TOWN HALL.

Roll Call:

Committee Present: Anthony Gabris, Ed Hagaman, Barbara Rheault, Larry Riffle, Mayor Brown

Municipal Clerk: Kimberly Johnson

Solicitor: Tracy Siebold

CFO: Dawn Stollenwerk

Chief of Police: John Thompson

Approval of Committee Minutes: Mayor entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2014 meeting; so moved by Mr. Hagaman seconded by Ms. Rheault. RCV: Yeas: Mr. Gabris, Mr. Hagaman, Ms. Rheault, Mr. Riffle, Mayor Brown.

Public Discussion Relating to Agenda Items: None.

First Reading: Ordinance 4-2014 / Amend Chapter 38 / Off-Duty Employment: Mayor Brown entertained a motion to read by title; so moved by Ms. Rheault seconded by Mr. Gabris. RCV: Yeas: Mr. Gabris, Mr. Hagaman, Ms. Rheault, Mr. Riffle, Mayor Brown.

An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 38, Article III, Section 189, Off-Duty Employment of the Code of the Township of Mullica Entitled, "Police, Division Of".

Mayor entertained a motion to approve and set a hearing date for April 22nd at 7pm; so moved by Mr. Hagaman seconded by Mr. Gabris. RCV: Yeas: Mr. Gabris, Mr. Hagaman, Ms. Rheault, Mr. Riffle, Mayor Brown.

Budget Hearing: Mayor reported Committee began working on the 2014 Budget with a 12 cent increase and worked with Department Heads reviewing line item by line item and brought the increase down to 3 cents. Mayor stated they addressed line items which would not affect services. Mr. Hagaman agreed that Committee did their best to keep the increase at a minimum during these difficult economic times. Mr. Gabris agreed with Committeeman Hagaman noting we need to continue to focus on revenues and expenses throughout the year. Ms. Rheault agreed times are tough with declining revenues and paying and collection of taxes is difficult in this depressed economy. Mayor Brown entertained a motion to read by title; so moved by Mr. Hagaman seconded by Mr. Gabris. RCV: Yeas: Mr. Gabris, Mr. Hagaman, Ms. Rheault, Mr. Riffle, Mayor Brown.

2014 Municipal Budget of the Township of Mullica, County of Atlantic, for Fiscal Year 2014

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Mayor Brown opened to the public. No public comment. Mayor entertained a motion to adopt; so moved by Mr. Hagaman seconded by Ms. Rheault. RCV: Yeas: Mr. Gabris, Mr. Hagaman, Ms. Rheault, Mr. Riffle, Mayor Brown.

Committee Reports:

Public Works: Ms. Rheault reported Public Works have been working diligently at the recreation fields getting them ready for spring sports, rebuilt a plow pump which reflected in a savings of \$500.00, welded much needed wheels on the dumpster containers and have been addressing pot holes from the winter storms. The Transfer Station will be closed on Sunday April 20th in observance of Easter. Please do not put trash in front of the gates when closed, materials will be accepted on Saturday and Monday of the Easter weekend.

Development & Housing: Mr. Hagaman reported for the month of March the Construction Department issued 10 new permits and 3 updates which included replacement of dwelling damage by flood, addition, ground mount solar system, pole barn, enclosed porch and renovations to dwellings. The remaining new permits were for alterations. The Construction Office collected \$6,999.00 in fees of which \$494.00 is remitted to the State. The Zoning Department issued 5 Zoning Permits, and 6 Maintenance Certificates. The Zoning/Housing Department collected \$1,125.00.

Department of Administration: Mr. Gabris reported the following: Historical Society will meet April 15th, 7pm. Seniors Meeting will be held Wednesday April 16th, 12pm at the Elwood Fire House, lunch will be served. Municipal offices will be closed Friday, April 18th in observance of Good Friday. Mr. Gabris noted the CRS (community rating system) Program, which offers a discount to our residents for flood insurance has been defunct. He reported 153 flood insurance policies are purchased in Mullica Township and by re-instating the CRS Program those residents may be able to receive a 10% discount. Mr. Gabris requested Committees' approval that he be allowed to re-establish the program. Mr. Gabris explained between himself and Ms. Acevedo the benefits to the residents would outweigh the work needed to revitalize the program. Mayor Brown asked if this program would be affected by the new flood maps and Ordinance that we are working on. Mr. Gabris stated it would not. Mayor Brown noted the County has approved funding to address the dam at Lake Nescochague. Mr. Gabris stated that will be helpful to the program. Ms. Rheault made a motion to authorize Committeeman Anthony Gabris to re-implement the CRS Program seconded by Mr. Hagaman. RCV: Yeas: Mr. Gabris, Mr. Hagaman, Ms. Rheault, Mr. Riffle, Mayor Brown.

Department of Revenue & Finance: Mayor Brown reported at the Township Tax Sale held March 26, 66 liens were auctioned, 34 were purchased by outside lien holders in the amount of \$84,026.29 plus \$98,600 in premiums. The township received 32 liens.

Correspondence:

Resolution from Buena Vista Township calling on the legislature to make permanent the 2% CAP on interest arbitration awards.

Notice of a Public Hearing setting aside funds from Atlantic County Open Space Trust Fund to be held May 6th, 6pm, Atlantic County Library, Mays Landing.

Old Business:

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Temporary Trailer Permit Extension / Block 7201, Lot 5: Mr. Hagaman reported the owner has requested an additional six month extension for completion of construction of his dwelling. Mr. Hagaman read the progress report submitted by Mr. DePhillips and noted he will submit progress reports as requested by Committee. Mayor Brown entertained a motion to grant the six month extension; so moved by Mr. Hagaman seconded by Mr. Gabris. RCV: Yeas: Mr. Gabris, Mr. Hagaman, Ms. Rheault, Mr. Riffle, Mayor Brown.

Discuss Lease / Hilda Frame School / Historical Society: Ms. Siebold reported she is coordinating with the School Board Solicitor regarding changes to the lease. Ms. Siebold stated the Clerk prepared an amended Resolution of support per her request which added a provision to name Mullica Township as an additional insured and changed the language regarding a community center to museum. Ms. Siebold noted the Historical Society should be known as Mullica Township Historical Society as indicated in the Township Code, not Mullica in the Pines Historical Society, unless the Municipal Code is updated. Mr. Gabris requested the Governing Body consider allocating minimal funding towards this project. Ms. Rheault suggested an in-kind contribution, such as mowing of grass.

New Business:

Resolution 62-2014 / Self- Examination of Budget: Mayor entertained a motion to approve; so moved by Mr. Hagaman seconded by Ms. Rheault. RCV: Yeas: Mr. Gabris, Mr. Hagaman, Ms. Rheault, Mr. Riffle, Mayor Brown.

Resolution 63-2014 / Renew 2014 Junkyard / Peter Capella & Sons: Mayor Brown entertained a motion to renew; so moved by Mr. Gabris seconded by Mr. Riffle RCV: Yeas: Mr. Gabris, Mr. Hagaman, Ms. Rheault, Mr. Riffle, Mayor Brown.

Payment of Bills: Mayor entertained a motion to approve the Bill List; so moved by Mr. Hagaman seconded by Ms. Rheault RCV: Yeas: Mr. Gabris, Mr. Hagaman, Ms. Rheault, Mr. Riffle, Mayor Brown

Mayor Brown reported Ordinance #4-2014 is increasing the fee from 20% to 40%, which increases the additional fee which covers administrative costs and overhead of utilization for utilization of an off-duty police officer.

Public Discussion:

Mr. Francis Paulsgraf asked if we were over budget for snow removal and what will base 2015 budget costs on. Mayor stated he believed we were within budget and that we use an average when calculating costs. Mr. Paulsgraf asked if the Police Department keeps a record of tickets written under grants, such as You Text, You Phone, You Pay (Distracted Drive Grant). Mayor reported currently 117 tickets have been written.

Ms. Cathy Dickerson, 30 Mullica Way, Mullica Woods, reported that she has been advised by the Zoning Official that eight meter packs are scheduled to be replaced and the additional twelve will be replaced within the next two years. Ms. Dickerson stated the Mullica Woods Community is holding a Pancake Breakfast, Saturday, April 11th, 8am – 11am.

Mr. Marshall (Ted) Behr, 16 Cardinal Drive, Mullica Woods, thanked Committee for their support in regards to management of the community. Mr. Behr asked if the insurance, maintenance, benefits and other items are considered in the 40% for the off-duty officer. Mayor stated all those items are included.

Mr. Dave Goldberg, 2244 Elwood Road, reported along with his neighbors a clean-up was conducted along Elwood Road on March 17 and 18 which consisted of about 30 hours. Mr. Goldberg stated a bike race was held

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on March 30th and he submitted trash that was picked up after the race which consisted of gel packs utilized by the bicyclists. Mr. Goldberg thanked Ms. Johnson for posting the dates on the Township's website for the bicycle races, as well as the VFW Memorial Day Service. Mr. Goldberg thanked Mayor Brown for accepting the invitation to speak on Memorial Day. Committee briefly discussed and suggested sending a letter. Clerk stated when the approval is granted a letter is also sent which will now include language regarding littering. Chief Thompson stated this is the first time he has been alerted to littering.

Mayor Brown entertained a motion to enter Executive Session; so moved by Mr. Hagaman seconded by Ms. Rheault. RCV: Yeas: Mr. Gabris, Mr. Hagaman, Ms. Rheault, Mr. Riffle, Mayor Brown. Clerk read Resolution ES5-14 in full, to discuss, holiday pay for members of the PBA, notice of Appeal regarding James Wild vs. Mullica Township and to review Executive Session Minutes.

Mr. Hagaman moved to come back to Regular Session at 8:13 pm seconded by Ms. Rheault. RCV: Yeas: Mr. Gabris, Mr. Hagaman, Ms. Rheault, Mr. Riffle, Mayor Brown. Clerk reported in Executive Session the Governing Body discussed holiday pay for the Detective position, promotions in the Police Department, appeal of James Wild and representation for the appeal, and reviewed Executive Session Minutes. Mr. Hagaman so moved to appoint former labor counsel Todd Gelfand to represent the municipality in regards to the appeal filed by Mr. Wild seconded by Ms. Rheault. RCV: Yeas: Mr. Gabris, Mr. Hagaman, Ms. Rheault, Mr. Riffle, Mayor Brown. Mr. Gabris so moved to support Chief's recommendation for posting of a Corporal position seconded by Ms. Rheault. RCV: Yeas: Mr. Gabris, Mr. Hagaman, Ms. Rheault, Mr. Riffle, Mayor Brown.

Approve Executive Session Minutes: Mayor Brown entertained a motion to approve the minutes of March 11, 2014, so moved by Ms. Rheault seconded by Mr. Gabris. RCV: Mr. Gabris, Mr. Hagaman, Ms. Rheault, Mayor Brown. Abstain: Mr. Riffle.

Mr. Riffle made a motion to adjourn seconded by Mr. Hagaman. RCV: Yeas: All voted yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Johnson, Municipal Clerk