

REGULAR MEETING JUNE 27, 2017

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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 4, 2017, AND POSTED AT TOWN HALL.

Roll Call:

Committee Present: Larry Riffle, Christopher Silva, John Walther, James Brown

Committee Absent: Gary Franklin

Municipal Clerk: Kimberly Johnson

Solicitor: Keith Davis

CFO: Dawn Stollenwerk

Police: John Thompson, Chief; Brian Zeck, Captain

Approval of Committee Minutes: Mayor Brown entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the June 13th meeting; so moved by Mr. Walther seconded by Mr. Silva. Mr. Riffle requested the minutes be amended to include his statement regarding the selection of the Township Committee Member. He indicated his response to the Mayor's statement that this is a Republican Club item, was that "this was not a Republican Club item, this was a state law, this comes from the State Legislature and he was concerned that legal protocol was followed". Mayor stated it is not a State Law that the Ward Leaders need to submit all the names, just three. Mr. Davis stated the County Committee Members are obligated to submit three names to the Township Committee for consideration. RCV: Nays: Mr. Riffle. Mr. Silva stated Mr. Riffle did bring up the State Statute. Mr. Davis suggested deferring the minutes. Mr. Silva stated this was a contentious matter and would like to see it word for word. Nays: Mr. Silva. Yeas: Mr. Walther, Mayor Brown.

Public Discussion Relating to Agenda Items: None.

Presentation: Mr. Paul Miola, Executive Director / Atlantic County Municipal JIF Renewal: Mr. Miola gave the following presentation: The Jif remains the most successful example of inter-local cooperation in New Jersey history. The JIF offers affordable coverage, superior programs, financial stability and strength. Since the inception of the JIF in New Jersey it has saved 1 billion taxpayer dollars. The JIF has had a 30 year stable history, currently has a thirty-one million dollar surplus, over fifty-one million dollar cash on hand and has the financial strength to pay claims. The Atlantic JIF pays dividends and in 2016 Mullica received \$25,580.00. They have been able to keep claims under control which equates to lower premiums overall. Mullica's contribution to the loss funding of the JIF has dropped by 22.8%, because of keeping claims under control, practicing safety and risk management. This JIF is run by the members and all members are committed to safety and risk management. Mr. Miola mentioned the Risk Management Team Dawn Stollenwerk, Safety Coordinator and Fund Commissioner; Kimberly Johnson, Claims Coordinator and Joe Meola, Risk Management Consultant. Mr. Miola stated Ms. Stollenwerk always represents Mullica's interest in a positive manner. Mr. Miola strongly requested the Governing Body considering renewing Mullica's participation in the JIF. Mr. Silva asked if all members' losses are the same. Mr. Meola stated they vary, noting some members require more attention than others and they are placed on a safety intervention program.

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Mr. David Gorski, CPA, PSA / 2016 Municipal Audit: Mr. Gorski, reported he was the Manager on the Township Audit and gave a summary of the 2016 Municipal Audit dated June 21, 2017. Mr. Gorski stated throughout the testing they found no internal deficiencies to report. He explained this is the cleanest report a municipality can receive, noting a great job to the Finance Department. Mr. Gorski did express concern of the fund balance being down and loss in grant revenues. He noted there are no general comments or audit recommendations for the Committee. Mr. Silva expressed his concern of receiving this report earlier to be able to digest it. Mr. Goraski replied they could schedule earlier and added they are always available to answer questions and concerns of the Governing Body. Mr. Gorski thanked Dawn Stollenwerk CFO and Kimberly Johnson, RMC for a great job.

First Reading: Ordinance #6-2017 / Creating Chapter 170 / Peace and Good Order: Mayor Brown entertained a motion to read by title; so moved by Mr. Silva seconded by Mr. Walther. RCV: Yeas: All voted yes.

An Ordinance Adopting Chapter 170, Peace and Good Order, of the Code of the Township of Mullica, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey.

Mayor Brown entertained a motion to approve and set hearing date for July 11th; so moved by Mr. Silva. Mr. Silva asked if definitions can be included for house of ill fame and disorderly house. Mr. Davis suggested the following language: change house of ill fame to house of prostitution and define disorderly house as: that negatively impacts the peacefulness of a neighbor. Mr. Silva amended his motion to include those changes seconded by Mr. Walther. RCV: Yeas: All voted yes.

Committee Reports:

Department of Revenue & Finance: Mayor reported the revaluation contract has been approved by the Division of Taxation, all parties have been notified, and revaluation project will begin shortly. Information on the revaluation process and the project schedule will be posted on the Township website.

Correspondence:

Resolution from Buena Vista, Pleasantville and Port Republic to join the lawsuit with Atlantic County challenging the Casino Pilot Law.

Pinelands Commission is holding a Special Meeting on Wednesday July 26th at the Pine Belt Arena in Toms River to accept comments concerning the staff's prior determination that the 12.1 mile, 30 inch natural gas pipeline proposed by NJ Natural Gas is consistent with the CMP.

Atlantic City Electric is holding public hearings on Wednesday June 28th at 3:30 pm and 5:30 pm at their offices in Mays Landing regarding rates.

Old Business:

Budget Discussion / Class II Officers: Chief Thompson introduced Captain Zeck to make the presentation. Captain Zeck referenced a memo dated June 23, 2017 from himself to Chief Thompson entitled Cost Analysis of Class II Officer. Captain reported Mullica Township is currently the only municipality in Atlantic County who does not utilize Class II Officers. He stated based upon past performances when we utilized Class II Officers, current performance of officers and trend of ticket writing, he estimated 50 summonses per month, per officer based upon a

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twenty hour work week. He reported based upon a salary of \$13.00 per hour and employee expenses he estimated an increased revenue of \$37,235.09. Mr. Walther asked if an increase would be generated by the existing force if this was put into play. Captain Zeck stated the Department is currently trending upward, but does not anticipate the existing increase. Mr. Silva asked if Class II Officers would bring competitiveness to the Department. Captain Zeck stated it will be motivation to the other officers and will improve public safety. He explained domestics and violent crimes are on the rise, noting before bail reform the Officer would spend an average of 2 ½ hours on a domestic call, taking that officer off the roadway. Chief added the day to day operations of a Class II Officer is to conduct traffic enforcement; however, what can affect that is adverse weather conditions, large scale events, training period, etc. Captain stated Hammonton and Egg Harbor are producing his estimated figures by utilizing Class II Officers. Chief stated the only downside is the turn-around, as these Officers are looking to obtain full time employment. Mr. Walther questioned the training period. Chief Thompson stated our practice is to hire trained officers, however, they do need to go through the Field Training Officer Program which is six to 8 weeks, to acclimate the Officer to the municipality. Chief reported the trend in Mullica on the rise in the past two years are assaults, burglaries, larceny, theft and domestic violence. Mayor Brown asked the cost of the uniforms and weapons. Chief stated approximately \$600.00. Chief thanked Committee for their consideration. Committee will give feedback after further review.

Cops Grant Discussion: Chief Thompson reported the 2017 COPS Hiring Grant has been announced. He explained the grant provides 75% of the entry-level salary and fringe benefits for an officer for a period of three years. The goal is to place an additional officer on the street and provide the ability to easily move into a different schedule which will make the Department more efficient as a whole, which will significantly reduce overtime. Chief stated minimum staffing is two officers, noting there are twenty-one occurrences in a week where we require two officers to work. With the current schedule there are eight incidences every week where there is minimum staffing. The additional officer will supplement shifts, reduce overtime and allow a detective to be assigned to an investigation without causing a severe impact on the budget. Chief asked for Committee's consideration to allow himself to apply for the grant and if approved will they accept. Mr. Silva asked CFO what the costs are. Ms. Stollenwerk indicated you need to include, pension, workers compensation, unemployment insurance, health benefits, fringe benefits, etc. she stated it is about \$100,000.00. CFO expressed her concern after the three years. Chief stated the employee will be told this position is under a grant and added retirees will be coming through in the next three years. Chief stated overtime could be reduced by \$10,000.00 with the additional officer. Chief stated in this grant, some of the indicators which we meet are: strong community policing, to excel the community policing program, issue of illegal immigrants and to hire veterans. Chief stated during blueberry season our farms bring in approximate 3,000 and up additional residents and the next person on the hiring list was a veteran. Mayor Brown expressed his concern with future budgets, noting revenues are down, taxes are increasing immensely this year, we are self-funding the revaluation, the need to purchased police vehicles and police salaries will increase next year. Mr. Silva stated we need to consider the revenue number that will be produced and we should hire on what we anticipate. Chief Thompson stated his overtime was extreme for the first quarter of this year due to two absences. Mr. Silva suggested we apply, noting we do not have to accept the grant. Chief stated due to staffing there are other issues of public safety that we can better address with additional staffing. Mr. Riffle made a motion to authorize Chief Thompson to apply for the grant seconded by Mr. Silva. RCV: Yeas: Mr. Riffle, Mr. Silva, Mr. Walther. Nays: Mayor Brown, as we cannot sustain our budget.

New Business:

Resolution #97-2017 / Appoint Deputy Mayor: Mayor requested nominations. Mr. Silva said he would accept if nominated. Mr. Riffle nominated Mr. Silva seconded by Mr. Walther. No other nominations. Mayor Brown moved to appoint Committeeman Silva as Deputy Mayor seconded by Mr. Walther. RCV: Yeas: All voted yes.

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Resolution #98-2017 / Appoint Director of Public Safety: Mayor Brown entertained a motion to appoint Committeeman Franklin; so moved by Mr. Riffle seconded by Mr. Walther. RCV: Yeas: All voted yes.

Resolution #99-2017 / Accept 2016 Municipal Audit: Mayor Brown entertained a motion to accept so moved by Mr. Silva with a proviso that correspondence be sent requesting it be provided well in advance, seconded by Mr. Riffle. RCV: Yeas: All voted yes.

Resolution #100-2017 / Separate Employment / Joel Conner: Mayor Brown entertained a motion to separate so moved by Mr. Riffle, seconded by Mr. Walther. RCV: Yeas: All voted yes.

Resolution #101-2017 / Renew Liquor Licenses / Tom's Place, Tower Liquors, Nesco Liquors: Mayor Brown entertained a motion to approve so moved by Mr. Silva seconded by Mr. Walther. RCV: Yeas: All voted yes.

Appoint Un-expired Planning Board Alt. #3 / Kristi Hanselmann: Mayor appointed Ms. Hanselmann. RCV: Yeas: All voted yes.

Old Business Continued:

Resolution #96-2017 / Authorizing Mullica to Join County Lawsuit / Pilot Program: Mayor stated he has been advised that County assessment will not affect the pilot program. Mr. Silva asked if being a plaintiff puts the municipality in any adverse position. Mr. Davis stated anytime a lawsuit is filed anyone can counterclaim; however for this he cannot perceive what that might be. Mayor entertained a motion to authorize; so moved by Mr. Silva seconded by Mr. Walther. RCV: Yeas: All voted yes.

Payment of Bills: Mayor Brown entertained a motion to approve the bill list; so moved by Mr. Walther seconded by Mr. Silva. RCV: All voted yes.

New Business Continued:

Waiver of School Construction Fees: Mayor reported we received a letter from Mullica Township School requesting that all permit fees associated with the November 2016 bond referendum be waived, approximately \$50,000.00. Mr. Davis explained it is mandated by the State to waive fees; however, the municipality is permitted to charge for plan review (20% of fees). Mr. Davis stated he inquired with the School Board Attorney as to the bid specifications for the construction permit fees and was told that any municipal fees associated with the project are the responsibility of the contractor. Committee briefly discussed and Mr. Silva moved to charge the maximum allowed by law seconded by Mr. Riffle. RCV: Yeas: All voted yes.

Public Discussion: None.

Mayor Brown entertained a motion to adjourn; so moved by Mr. Riffle seconded by Mr. Silva. RCV: Yeas: All voted yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Johnson, Municipal Clerk

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BILL LIST

Atlantic City Electric	316.86	June Services
Best Eastern Exterminating	100.00	Pest Control Svc.
County Conservation Company	5,000.00	Tub-Grinding
Casa Payroll Services	149.80	Payroll Services May-December 2017
John H. Abbot, Inc.	108.00	Rails for Park Fence
Grainger Industrial Supply	578.34	Safety Supplies
Municipal Record Service	300.00	Bail Waiver Forms
Municipal Equipment Enterprise	850.10	Light Repairs
The Hammonton Gazette	17.67	Ord-5-2017 / DPW Job Opening
Verizon	27.63	May-December Services
Verizon Wireless	240.18	June-December Services
Sprint Spectrum	421.76	June-December Services
South Jersey Gas Co.	117.18	June Services
South Jersey Welding Supply	207.00	Cylinder Lease
Unitedhealthcare Insurance	739.90	July Premium
Marathon Engineering	2,795.00	Shed Depot Escrow Inspection
Ford Motor Credit Company	15,011.11	2015 Police Car Lease Payment
Amazon	687.60	Telephone PC / Wellness
Atlantic County Clerk's Office	8.00	Record Land Sale Trenchard
Comcast	370.87	June-December Services
Farm-Rite Inc.	119.70	Mower Blades
Interstate Battery	140.95	Batteries
Maple Direct, Inc.	1,700.00	Estimated CY 2017 Tax Bill
Shore Animal Control Services	600.00	June Services
Petty Cash	99.62	Reimburse Petty Cash

Current Fund 6-01 900.00
 Current Fund 7-01 29,379.27
 Trust Fund 7-03 1,258.00
 TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS 31,537.27