

**REGULAR MEETING APRIL 24, 2018**

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7:00 P.M.**

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

IN COMPLIANCE WITH CHAPTER 231 PUBLIC LAWS OF 1975 ANNUAL NOTICE OF THIS MEETING WAS GIVEN BY NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE ATLANTIC CITY PRESS, ON JANUARY 6, 2018, THE HAMMONTON GAZETTE ON JANUARY 10, 2018, AND POSTED AT TOWN HALL

**Roll Call:**

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

**Municipal Clerk:** Kimberly Johnson

**Solicitor:** Tracy Siebold

**CFO:** Dawn Stollenwerk

**Chief of Police:** John Thompson

**Approval of Committee Minutes:** Mayor Silva entertained a motion to approve the minutes of April 10<sup>th</sup>; so moved by Mr. Riffle seconded by Mr. Walther. RCV: Yeas: All voted yes.

**Public Discussion Relating to Agenda Items:** None.

**Resolution #75-2018 / Self Examination of 2018 Municipal Budget.** Mayor Silva entertained a motion to adopt; so moved by Mr. Brown seconded by Ms. Rheault. RCV: All voted yes.

**2018 Municipal Budget Hearing:** Mayor Silva entertained a motion to read by title; so moved by Mr. Brown seconded by Mr. Riffle. RCV: Yeas: All voted yes.

*2018 Municipal Budget of the Township of Mullica, County of Atlantic, State of New Jersey*

Ms. Siebold stated Mr. Walther contacted her with regard to the budget and being able to vote. She stated there was no problem with him voting on the budget; however, he did listen to the discs of the budget meetings. Mayor Silva thanked him for his diligence. Mayor opened to the public. No public comment. Mayor Silva entertained a motion to adopt; so moved by Mr. Brown seconded by Ms. Rheault. RCV: Mr. Brown, Ms. Rheault, Mr. Riffle, Mr. Walther. Abstain: Mayor Silva. Mr. Brown stated at the last budget meeting everyone seemed to be in agreement with the budget. Mayor stated he is still in agreement; however, it was the issue that was raised by Chief Thompson in regards to conflict of interest regarding his son-in-law. Mr. Brown suggested voting on the budget, and abstaining on the Police Department line item. Ms. Siebold concurred. Mayor stated he is awaiting further clarification from his own personal law firm. Mayor requested budget breakdowns electronically every couple weeks to track overtime, legal costs, etc. Mr. Brown suggested quarterly reports.

**Committee Reports:**

**Department of Public Safety:** Ms. Rheault reported the following: The police department has contacted management of Mullica Woods regarding residents walking in dark clothing on streets that do not have street lights at night. An informational bulletin will soon be distributed to all Mullica Woods residents about safety concerns when walking on dark roadways at night. This message is good advice for all. When walking or riding a bicycle in our township especially at night; wear reflective or bright colored clothing. Be aware that it

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is difficult for drivers to see those that dress in dark clothing and are on the roadways at night. Residents are urged to report traffic concerns to the police department immediately. Be specific on your call, include any vehicle description, direction of travel, pattern, or any specific markings of the accused vehicle. The warmer weather is the start of a busier traffic season for the police department; officers will be out in force looking for those that do not obey the law. Mr. Brown asked that the Department be aware of un-tagged quads in the vicinity of Pleasant Mills Road. Ms. Rheault reported the following statistics for the month of March: 911 abandoned calls 7; alarms 13; burglary 1; animal complaints 20; debris in roadway 27; dui 2; medical calls 29; motor vehicle accidents 24; motor vehicle stops 224; overdose 2; property checks 336; thefts 2; total calls 1,064.

Ms. Rheault reported prior to the meeting herself, Deputy Mayor Walther, and CFO met with Director of Fire Department Affairs Jerry Critelli regarding the structure and function of the fire department service. She has directed the CFO to solicit proposals for a consultant to review the operation, function and equipment of the departments. Mayor asked if there are any grants available for the study. CFO stated there is not. Mayor asked if the Police Department had completed the analysis for repeat offenders regarding alarms. Ms. Rheault indicated she was unaware of that request and will review it. Mr. Brown stated the call numbers have been down.

**Department of Revenue & Finance:** Mr. Brown reported the following: March treasurer's report was emailed to all members of committee and will be included in the minutes of tonight's meeting. Budget/tax information: Tax Increase 2018, Local purpose (municipality) 2.65 cents; Mullica School (5.05 operating/2.51 debt) 7.61 cents GEHR School -4.48 cents. Net increase 5.78 cents plus County.

**Department of Public Works:** Mr. Riffle reported the following: Public Works Department is working hard to pick up the brush associated with the winter storms, repairing pot holes and maintaining the recreation complex. Superintendent is suggesting the employees work overtime to address the abundance of chipping that still needs to be accomplished. There are not enough hours in the day or employees to address this.

**Department of Development & Housing:** Mayor Silva reported the following for the month of March: Construction Department issued 23 new permits which included roof mount and ground mount solar systems, lifting of existing home, decks, and 3 single family home permits for the Town of Hammonton. The remaining new permits were for alterations. The Construction Office collected \$14,934.00 in fees of which \$827.00 is remitted to the State. The Zoning Department issued 10 Zoning Permits, 9 Maintenance Certificates and collected \$940.00.

### **Correspondence:**

Resolution from Galloway Township supporting Assembly Bill 3292 requiring a warning sticker on containers of opioid medications.

Resolution from City of Absecon calling for defeat of Assembly Bill A-773 proposing gaming expansion at State Race Tracks.

Atlantic County will hold a public hearing on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 5pm at the Atlantic County Library for the proposal of disbursement from the Atlantic County Open Space, Recreation Farmland & Historic Preservation Trust Fund for various improvements at Lake Lenape Park East.

### **Old Business:**

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**Resolution #76-2018 / Extend Shared Services Agreement / Galloway / Superintendent:** Mayor Silva moved to extend; so moved by Mr. Riffle seconded by Mr. Walther. RCV: Yeas: Mr. Brown, Ms. Rheault, Mr. Riffle, Mr. Walther. Abstain: Mayor Silva.

**Discuss Superintendent of Public Works Advertisement:** Mayor Silva reported he received a proposed advertisement which omitted that the statute allows that private sector can be substituted for public and that that it required 3 years of supervisory experience. He expressed his concern that the advertisement should include the statutory requirements. Clerk explained she proposed the advertisement to meet the five year requirement in the statute, 3 years supervisory experience and 2 years to gain experience and be able to take the required courses for certification. Mr. Walther stated he understood the private experience to be someone employed by a private contractor and working for a public entity. Mayor reported in his discussions with DCA, he questioned the experience of someone who ran a garage, and was advised that would suffice. Mr. Brown suggested advertising as we have in the past with the inclusion of CDL requirement. Ms. Rheault expressed her concern that we follow the interview process in line with the advertisement. Mr. Brown suggested that the DCA provide a ruling in writing. Ms. Johnson to send the statutes to Ms. Siebold for preparation of the advertisement. Mr. Riffle requested that the advertisement have a 10 day limitation on accepting resumes. Committee discussed and agreed to 15 days. Ms. Rheault suggested the first round applicants be re-considered. Mayor suggested that language be placed in the advertisement. Committee discussed Supervisor versus Superintendent. Clerk suggested a Supervisor position be considered. Committee consented to advertise for Superintendent.

Committee briefly discussed and agreed to have Superintendent of Public Works schedule overtime hours to address the chipping. Committee discussed the possibility of additional temporary part-time help. It was decided that this will be revisited.

Mayor stated in regards to the RICE Law, it is ok to state an employee's name, they are to be noticed when speaking about terms of employment, discipline, etc.

### **New Business:**

**Resolution #77-2018 / Renew 2108 Junkyard License / Caruso's Auto Parts:** Mayor Silva moved to renew; so moved by Mr. Brown seconded by Mr. Walther. RCV: Yeas: All voted yes.

**Resolution #78-2018 / Opposing Proposed Regulations to Regulate Beekeeping:** Mayor entertained a motion. Mr. Walther expressed his concern with public safety issues, adding on a personal note his daughter was allergic bees, and he is not in favor of changing the regulations. Ms. Rheault stated this Resolution is not opposing the original legislation, but the regulations be revised so as to not be so onerous on beekeepers. Committee continued to discuss. Mr. Riffle also expressed his concern of bees, noting a personal experience with bees at his home, due to a bee hive which was about 10 acres away from his 5 acre lot. Mr. Walther stated his issue is not with the acreage, but with the distances for public places, schools, parks, playgrounds, etc. Mayor asked if we can adopt our own regulations. Ms. Siebold stated she would need to research. Ms. Brown stated there should be some sort of control for the hobbyist. Ms. Rheault made a motion to adopt seconded by Mr. Brown. Yeas: Mr. Brown, Ms. Rheault. Nays: Mr. Riffle, Mr. Walther, Mayor Silva.

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

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**Public Discussion:** Ms. Tedders, 331 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, expressed her concern with the condition of her roadway and requested that the potholes be addressed. Mr. Riffle to advise Public Works.

**Executive Session:** Mayor Silva entertained a motion to enter Executive Session; so moved by Mr. Riffle seconded by Mr. Walther. RCV: Yeas: All voted yes. Clerk read Resolution #ES8-18 in full to discuss pending litigation, policies, and a grievance and to review Executive Session minutes.

Mayor Silva moved to come back to Regular Session at 8:45 PM. Clerk reported in Executive Session the Governing Body reviewed the Executive Session Minutes, received guidance on the Open Public Meetings Act, attorney-client privilege, and discussed pending litigation, potential litigation and a police grievance.

**Approve Executive Session Minutes:** Mayor moved to approve the minutes of April 10, 2018 seconded by Mr. Walther. RCV: Yeas: All voted yes.

Mayor moved to adjourn seconded by Mr. Walther. RCV: Yeas: All voted yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly Johnson, Municipal Clerk