

**BOROUGH OF RIVERTON
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
JUNE 16, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.**

Mayor Cairns Wells called the meeting to order and saluted the Flag. The Borough Hall was closed to the general public in accordance with social distancing guidelines in place due to the onset of COVID-19 and the meeting was held via conference call with notice for calling in provided under OPMA.

Under the guidance of the Governor’s Executive Order 107, the Division of Local Government Services of New Jersey has strongly encouraged all municipalities to conduct public meetings with communications equipment to avoid a public gathering. N.J.S.A 10:4-8(b) authorizes local units to conduct public meetings through use of streaming services and other online meeting platforms. Participant instruction for the public meetings Using a computer, tablet or smartphone, join the Zoom Meeting using this link:

<https://zoom.us/j/98492279948?pwd=KzdNSEZqVnk4YUdwTXNvYXM3S2lKdz09>

Meeting ID: 984 9227 9948 and Password: 2s6UBT

To join the meeting from a landline or mobile phone:
Dial: 646-558-8656

Meeting ID: 984 9227 9948 and Password: 076997

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT

“Public notice of this meeting, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, has been given in the following manner:

- a. Having written notice published in the Burlington County Times Thursday June 11, 2020
- b. Forwarding written notice to the Courier Post for informational purposes only on Tuesday June 9, 2020
- c. Posting written notice on the Borough Website and the Borough Hall on Tuesday June 9, 2020

ROLL CALL

Mayor Suzanne Cairns Wells	present	Councilwoman Laura Major	present
Council President Bill Corbi	present	Councilman Ken Mills	present
Councilman Hank DeGeorge	present	Councilman Jim Quinn	present
Councilman Kirk Fullerton	present		

Other Borough Officials Present: Nicole Shively Treasurer, Keith Adams, Public Works Manager, John Shaw, Chief of Police, Solicitor Tom Coleman, Esquire and Borough Clerk Michelle Hack.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES/CLERK REPORT

Minutes from the May 19, 2020 regular meeting were submitted for approval. Motion made by Mr. Corbi to approve the minutes to which Mr. DeGeorge seconded his motion. ROLL CALL: Mr. Corbi aye, Mr. DeGeorge aye, Mr. Fullerton aye, Ms. Major aye, Mr. Mills aye, Mr. Quinn aye.

Ms. Hack updated Mayor and Council on the latest efforts to host a safe, compliant Primary Election Day. She also thanked Ms. Adrienne Kupper for all of her time and efforts to help find the best video meeting/conference platform that best suited the Borough's needs.

TREASURER'S REPORT, FINANCE/TAX REPORT & BILL LIST

Mr. Fullerton asked for a motion to approve the reports and bill list, which closed on June 15, 2020. Mr. Corbi seconded the motion. The full bill list is on file for inspection in the clerk's office. ROLL CALL: Mr. Corbi aye, Mr. DeGeorge aye, Mr. Fullerton aye, Ms. Major aye, Mr. Mills aye, Mr. Quinn aye.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Mayor opened the Public Comment session of the meeting.

Sharon Stokes stated that in the past she has witnessed racism occur in Riverton at the 4th of July parade. She said there were floats that did not throw candy to her African American guests, but did for other children. She would like to see the town address the issue of racism.

Ms. Wanda Swanson thanked Chief Shaw for coordinating the upcoming showing of "13" in the Park. She alleged that she witnessed a Riverton resident attempting to intimidate guests who were walking to attend a peaceful protest in Palmyra on June 7, by riding his bike back and forth multiple times. Ms. Swanson also and reported an interaction with a former Councilman that she didn't feel was appropriate in the wake of current events.

No one additional came forth to speak therefore closing the public portion.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Cairns Wells read a statement to clarify her position and input on the inquiry on behalf of a resident looking to adopt sheep, she went on record to apologize for a comment that came out as cynical concerning the sheep being relocated from a COVID-19 hotspot in New York during the quarantine period, at the height of the pandemic. She also stated for the record that there was no attempt to mislead or change the ordinances as she has been accused. Mr. Quinn accused her of mayoral overreach and believes an apology is owed for this. Mayor Cairns Wells reiterated her position that the communication was unclear and could have been clarified better to the adoption agency.

Mr. Quinn asked for a motion to act on the formation of a Youth Engagement Committee to guide the Council on matters they in touch with as young adults, such as racism and unity. Ms. Major stated she was on board with the idea however asked for details, such as framework, mission and goals. Mayor and Council agreed with this before sending his motion. He will report back next month with additional information. Mr. Quinn read a unity statement on discrimination and injustice.

MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

The Mayor read a Proclamation/statement of peace and injustice concerning the killing of George Floyd. This statement was issued by her and Chief Shaw issued on June 2, 2020 denouncing racism and calling for peace.

SOLICITORS REPORT

Mr. Coleman stated the Final Compliance hearing to accept the Borough's Plan was held earlier today and it was approved with minor revisions. Minor revision shall come on next month's agenda and on the July Planning Board agenda. The plan is valid through 2025.

MAY 2020 PUBLIC WORKS REPORT

DPW: Brush collected 3 times on Route 130 side and 2 times on river side; 11 brush dumpsters and finished sweeping town; Electrical issue with rear motor of sweeper was repaired. Continuing to work on fixing holes in rear hopper; Recycling report has been filed with the state; F-350 was serviced; Installed mulch at borough office and circle at Lippincott and Broad St; Clearing handicap ramps 3/4 of the way finished however interrupted by the storm on June 3, 2020. Storm hit on June 3rd: approximate list of damage: 11 borough trees lost, 9 good-sized branches fell, Eastern removed 9 hangers, Eastern worked on 39 trees in the park. Concerning Storm cleanup, the Public Works Manager publicly thanked the Public Works crew of Scott, Kyle, and John for going above and beyond in the aftermath of the storm. The town would not have been cleaned up so quickly without their hard work and the equipment that the borough owns. **PARKS:** Park cut 4 times; the well for the sprinkler system needs repair; June 11th: Park reopened with restrictions. June 11th: Bid opening for dog park. **SEWER:** 2 sewer calls- 1 homeowner responsibility and 1 was main issue at the 500 block of 4th St. May 19th: Bid opening for panel replacement of tanks.

Mr. Corbi also shared the Sewer plant report from WRM Incorporated and noted it would be the final report from them and the Borough is presenting a resolution to hire an Operator for the Sewer Plant. Mr. Corbi also updated that the second trash pickup starts the end of May and bulk will resume at that time. Last, he thanked Mr. Adams and the DPW for their hard work and dedication in restoring the town after the sudden storm on June 3. Mayor Cairns Wells followed up with sentiment and read an email that she received from a pleased resident who commended Mr. Adam's work.

RESOLUTION #80-2020

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE HIRING OF A LICENSED WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR

(FULL RESOLUTION IN RESOLUTION BOOK)

Mr. Corbi read the resolution by title only and motioned for approval. Mr. Fullerton provided the second. This approves Joseph Gaskill to begin employment with the Borough effective June 22, 2020. Mr. Quinn asked for clarity on the savings of this salary. ROLL CALL: Mr. Corbi aye, Mr. DeGeorge aye, Mr. Fullerton aye, Ms. Major aye, Mr. Mills aye, Mr. Quinn aye.

RESOLUTION # 82-2020

**A RESOLUTION TO REJECT ALL BIDS FOR THE 2020 WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY TANK
REHABILITATION PROJECT
(FULL RESOLUTION IN RESOLUTION BOOK)**

Mr. Corbi read the resolution by title only and motioned for approval. Mr. DeGeorge provided the second. ROLL CALL: Mr. Corbi aye, Mr. DeGeorge aye, Mr. Fullerton aye, Ms. Major aye, Mr. Mills aye, Mr. Quinn aye.

**RESOLUTION #81-2020
A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN MOU WITH CINNAMINSON FIRE
DISTRICT FOR CONFINED SPACE RESCUE
(FULL RESOLUTION IN RESOLUTION BOOK)**

Mr. Corbi read the resolution by title only and motioned for approval. Mr. DeGeorge provided the second. ROLL CALL: Mr. Corbi aye, Mr. DeGeorge aye, Mr. Fullerton aye, Ms. Major aye, Mr. Mills aye, Mr. Quinn aye.

**RESOLUTION # 85-2020
A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE EXPANDED OUTDOOR DINING DURING THE COVID-19
PANDEMIC
(FULL RESOLUTION IN RESOLUTION BOOK)**

Mr. Mills read the resolution by title only and motioned for approval. This is effective June 15, 2020 in compliance with the Governor's Ex. Order # 150 to permit for outdoor dining. The eateries in the Borough wishing to participate will submit a plan for their arrangements. Ms. Major provided the second. ROLL CALL: Mr. Corbi aye, Mr. DeGeorge aye, Mr. Fullerton aye, Ms. Major aye, Mr. Mills aye, Mr. Quinn aye.

**RESOLUTION # 86-2020
A RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO A MUTUAL AID AND ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT WITH THE
COUNTY OF BURLINGTON
(FULL RESOLUTION IN RESOLUTION BOOK)**

Mr. Mills read the resolution by title only and motioned for approval. Mr. Quinn provided the second. This is a renewal of a five-year agreement effective August 1, 2020. ROLL CALL: Mr. Corbi aye, Mr. DeGeorge aye, Mr. Fullerton aye, Ms. Major aye, Mr. Mills aye, Mr. Quinn aye.

Municipal Court Report May 2020

Not submitted

Fire Department May 2020

Fires:

YTD:

Drills: 0

YTD:

May 2020 EMS Report

Not submitted

May Police Report	Current Month:	Last Month:	Year to Date:
Vehicle Mileage:	1912	1966	8528
Juvenile Arrests:	0	0	1
<u>Adult Arrests:</u>	11	5	62
a) Contempt		1	

b) Fictitious Documents		2	
c) Poss of CDS		1	
These figures represent people who were arrested and the charges against them.		1	
Motor Vehicle Accidents:	3	1	10
Motor Vehicle Stops:	75	6	449
Motor Vehicle Summonses:	60	1	294
Motor Vehicle Warnings:	15	5	150
Alarms:	7	11	35
Asst. to other Agencies:	38	20	68
Animal Complaints:	7	6	20
Fire Calls:	18	7	18
EMS Calls:	13	23	89
Unattended Deaths:	0	0	0
Criminal Cases:	14	8	74
Domestics:	4	2	3
Thefts: Motor Vehicle	3	4	8
Burglaries: Vehicle	1	0	3
Assaults:	0	1	1
Criminal Mischief:	1	1	3

Chief Shaw discussed a meeting he held with Kaya Robinson, who is a student at Palmyra HS and arranged the rally held in Palmyra on June 7, 2020. During their meeting, they talked about ways to engage the community to embrace and understand the Black Lives Matter movement. As an outcome, they are working together to host showing the documentary “13th” at Riverton Park on Friday June 19, 2020.

Chief Shaw addressed the loud music that travels across the river from Tacony neighborhood on the weekend nights. He advised that residents should call the Riverton Police, who can reach out the Philadelphia 15th Precinct. He also asked residents be understanding that loud music may not be a top priority for Philadelphia Police during turbulent times in the city.

He also updated on the fox that has been touring the Borough, the fox doesn’t pose a threat as he appears healthy. Foxes only pose a threat when they appear mangy.

Mr. Fullerton reported the Gazebo bench is done and he thanked the RIA for their work and insight on this project.

ORDINANCE O-04-2020

2ND READING

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS 2020 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, BY AND IN THE BOROUGH OF RIVERTON, IN THE COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING \$447,920 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$425,524 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF (IN FULL IN ORDINANCE BOOK)

Mr. Fullerton read the ordinance by title only and motioned for approval. Mr. Quinn provided the second for this motion. Mr. Fullerton gave an overview of the capital projects on schedule for the year although noting that some may be held off due to budgetary concerns. The Mayor opened the floor for a Public Hearing pertaining to this ordinance. No one came forth to speak therefore closing the public portion. ROLL CALL: Mr. Corbi aye, Mr. DeGeorge aye, Mr. Fullerton aye, Ms. Major aye, Mr. Mills aye, Mr. Quinn aye.

Ms. Major updated the Economic Improvement Committee will be hosting the June 24 Food Truck night with no tables, no children games and activities and social distancing measures will be in place in compliance with the Governors orders for social events. She also gave an update on other EIC updates and asked for volunteers to reach out to coordinate watering the RIA plantings.

Mr. Quinn reported on the Shade Tree Board and gave an update on their budget. He commended the Department of Public Works and the Shade Tree Board on their work cleaning the town after the recent storm. He asked if there are any waivers that could be prepared to satisfy the property owners and the Borough for sidewalk repair. It was reiterated that sidewalk repair is the responsibility of the individual homeowner and the municipality can be liable for repairs.

Mr. DeGeorge commented that the 8th grade graduation parade held June 11 was a great success and Ms. Eck did a great job of celebrating this important milestone during the pandemic. He thanked Mr. Corbi for his hard work on employing a sewer operation. Mayor Cairns Wells joined him in this and explained this position was difficult to fill due shortage of operators which is a Statewide issue.

RESOLUTION #83-2020

A RESOLUTION TO AWARD THE CONTRACT FOR THE RIVERTON DOG PARK PROJECT (FULL RESOLUTION IN RESOLUTION BOOK)

Mr. DeGeorge read the resolution by title only and motioned for approval. The bid opening was June 10, 2020 and 2 sealed bids were entertained. The lowest responsible bidder was Abhzeen Design of Toms River at \$42,900. Mr. Corbi provided the second. ROLL CALL: Mr. Corbi aye, Mr. DeGeorge aye, Mr. Fullerton aye, Ms. Major aye, Mr. Mills aye, Mr. Quinn aye.

RESOLUTION #87-2020

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A REPAIR TO THE WELL FOR THE SPRINKLER SYSTEM AT RIVERTON MEMORIAL PARK (FULL RESOLUTION IN RESOLUTION BOOK)

Mr. DeGeorge read the resolution by title only and motioned for approval. Mr. Adams obtained three quotes for repair of the well. The repairs shall not exceed \$6010.00. Mr. Corbi provided the second. ROLL CALL: Mr. Corbi aye, Mr. DeGeorge aye, Mr. Fullerton aye, Ms. Major aye, Mr. Mills aye, Mr. Quinn aye.

RESOLUTION #84-2020

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE A PARK USAGE APPLICATION FOR THE YOGA TREE STUDIO

(FULL RESOLUTION IN RESOLUTION BOOK)

Mr. DeGeorge read the resolution by title only and motioned for approval. Ms. Major provided the second. This is a temporary short term arrangement. Location will be in a predetermined location and schedule. ROLL CALL: Mr. Corbi aye, Mr. DeGeorge aye, Mr. Fullerton aye, Ms. Major aye, Mr. Mills aye, Mr. Quinn aye.

Mayor Cairns Wells discussed the formation of a Mayoral Advisory Committee on Diversity. Her plan is to link up community representatives and possibly extend to our tri-boro neighbors. Councilwoman Major presented the idea of placing a table at the Food Truck events to draw volunteers for this. The Mayor shared an email that she had received from a resident offering suggestions for the Borough to act upon in an effort to combat racism. Mayor Cairns Wells thanked everyone who participated in standing on their porch on June 4th for 8 minutes and 46 seconds in memory of George Floyd.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Cairns Wells opened the floor for a second public comment session concerning the agenda.

Katie Lucas acknowledged the Mayor's comments on her position on the sheep keep correspondence. She disagreed with some of the points of clarification and made an accusation of Borough Officials acting in a "non-transparent unethical manner". These accusations are considered to be unfounded by Borough Officials involved.

Adrienne Kupper thanked Mayor Cairns Wells and Mr. Quinn, as well as Ms. Major for recognizing the need for improving diversity relations in the Borough.

ADJOURNMENT

With no additional business to discuss, Mr. Mills made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Major seconded his motion. All voted in the affirmative.

Next meeting of the Governing Body is scheduled for July 21, 2020 at 7 o'clock PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Hack, RMC
Borough Clerk