



BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT

MAYOR & COUNCIL

MINUTES • APRIL 15, 2021

Regular Meeting

REMOTE/VIRTUAL

7:00 PM

Clement V. Sommers Municipal Building, 910 Oceanport Way, Oceanport, NJ 07757

- I. **Call to Order:** Mayor Coffey called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM
- II. **Statement of Compliance with Open Public Meetings Act:** This meeting complies with the Open Public Meetings Act by adequate and electronic notification on January 13, 2021 of this virtual/remote meeting and its location, date and time to the Asbury Park Press and Two River Times and by the posting of same on the municipal bulletin board and Borough's Web Site. Mayor Coffey then read the virtual/remote meeting advisory advising the public how to attend and participate during public portions of the meeting.
- III. **Flag Salute:** Mayor Coffey led attendees and members of the Council in the flag salute.
- IV. **Invocation:** Borough Chaplain Stacy Deerin gave the invocation.
- V. **Roll Call:**

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Jay Coffey	Mayor	Remote	
William Deerin	Councilman	Remote	
Richard Gallo	Councilman	Remote	
Bryan Keeshen	Councilman	Remote	
Michael O'Brien	Councilman	Remote	
Thomas Tvrdik	Councilman	Remote	
Meghan Walker	Councilwoman	Remote	
Jeanne Smith	Borough Clerk	Present	
Donna M. Phelps	Borough Administrator	Remote	
Scott Arnette	Board Attorney	Remote	
Catherine D. LaPorta	Chief Financial Officer	Remote	

- VI. **GUEST: FMERA Staff Monthly Update:** Mayor Coffey provided an update on Fort Monmouth items including Lodging Parcel which was scheduled to close in July - \$15M purchase; Allison Hall parcel being purchased by two Oceanport residents scheduled to close in late summer/early fall for \$2.313M. A mural is being painted on the side of the former commissary building.
- VII. **Administrators Report:** Ms. Phelps reported on items including leases for two new copiers; a pro rata return of surplus fund from the 1995 fund year insurance; final FEMA payment received for municipal complex project of \$1,211,439 for a grand total of \$5,553,073 – little more than ½ of the \$11M capital ordinance including purchase of the property; recent fish kill in area waters and consult for disposal of dead fish; another kill is likely due to the number of bass in the waters. She concluded by giving best wishes to retiring Tax Collector Peggy Warren and will be missed.
Ms. LaPorta added her well wishes to Peggy Warren on her retirement and thanked her for her professionalism, responsiveness and always available.
Mayor Coffey added his comments that the position was one of those thankless positions but one of the most important and Peggy was really good at it – the Borough was blessed to have her.
Council President O'Brien also thanked her for her calming voice and handling well the challenges of a difficult position and wished her the best in her retirement.
- VIII. **Clerk's Report:** Ms. Smith added her appreciation for Peggy Warren and thanked her for her professionalism, experience and most of all friendship and that she would be greatly missed. Peggy Warren was able to join the meeting on the phone and thanked the Mayor and each of the Council members for the honor of working with them and for them; started her

career in Oceanport in 1989 and now back finishing after 32 years – a special thank you to Jeanne, Katie, Jason, John Butow for working with her, it was truly a great effort that can only be accomplished as a team.

Ms. Smith reported that the State had authorized an extension of the deadline for the filing of Annual Financial Disclosure Statements and would advise once the State had issued its Local Finance Notice opening the filing period. Ms. Smith also reported that she had been contacted by parties continuing to re-examine the Open Public Records Act as clerks continue to be burdened by the mounting number of requests. Oceanport, including the Police Department, responds on average to 400-600 request per year.

IX. Consent Agenda:

- #2021-83** 1. Resolution authorizing payment of BILL LIST 04-15-2021
- #2021-84** 2. Resolution authorizing Tax Sale Redemption #18-00004
- #2021-85** 3. Resolution creating a dedicated trust for Uniform Fire Safety Act Penalties
- #2021-86** 4. Resolution creating a dedicated trust for Uniform Fire Safety Act dedicated penalties
- #2021-87** 5. Resolution authorizing execution of an MOU with NJ Motor Vehicle Commission
- #2021-88** 6. Resolution awarding contract to Colliers Engineering (Maser) - Pickle Ball Courts
- #2021-89** 7. Resolution affirming P.L. 2021, c. 15 for Temporary Outdoor Dining during COVID19 emergency
- 8. Mayor & Council - Regular Meeting - Jan 21, 2021 7:00 PM
- 9. Mayor & Council - Regular Meeting - Feb 18, 2021 7:00 PM

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Meghan Walker, Councilwoman
SECONDER:	Richard Gallo, Councilman
AYES:	Deerin, Gallo, Keeshen, O'Brien, Tvrdik, Walker

X. 2021 Municipal & Capital Budget:

#2021-90 Resolution Approving Introduction of the 2021 Municipal Budget

Council President O'Brien provided an overview of the budget process, planned *decrease* in the tax rate for the municipal portion of the tax bill; the amount to be raised by taxation increasing slightly partly due to the increase in assessed value of homes. Ms. Smith advised that the public hearing on the 2021 municipal budget was scheduled for May 20, 2021 at 7pm and would be held remotely via the Go-to-Webinar online meeting platform.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Michael O'Brien, Councilman
SECONDER:	Bryan Keeshen, Councilman
AYES:	Deerin, Gallo, Keeshen, O'Brien, Tvrdik, Walker

XI. First Reading Ordinances:

#1037 Introduction of Ordinance Establishing a CAP Bank for CY2021

Councilman Tvrdik called for the introduction of "**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS FOR 2021 CALENDAR YEAR (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)**" and then asked the Clerk to read the proposed ordinance by title only, after which Councilman Tvrdik moved to approve the Ordinance upon first reading and to hold the public hearing on the proposed ordinance at the Council meeting of May 20, 2021 and to advertise same in accordance with the law, which was seconded by Councilman Deerin.

RESULT:	APPROVED OF FIRST READING [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 5/20/2021 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Thomas Tvrdik, Councilman	
SECONDER:	William Deerin, Councilman	
AYES:	Deerin, Gallo, Keeshen, O'Brien, Tvrdik, Walker	

#1038 Introduction of 2021 Capital Bond Ordinance

Councilman Tvrdik called for the introduction of "**BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS 2021 GENERAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, BY AND IN THE BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING \$2,252,500 THEREFOR (INCLUDING A GRANT FROM THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$150,000) AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$2,157,380 BONDS OR NOTES TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF**" and then asked the Clerk to read the proposed ordinance by title only, after which Councilman Tvrdik moved to approve the Ordinance upon first reading and to hold the public hearing on the proposed ordinance at the Council meeting of May 20, 2021 and to advertise same in accordance with the law, which was seconded by Councilman Deerin.

RESULT:	APPROVED OF FIRST READING [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 5/20/2021 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Thomas Tvrdik, Councilman	
SECONDER:	Richard Gallo, Councilman	
AYES:	Deerin, Gallo, Keeshen, O'Brien, Tvrdik, Walker	

Introduction of An Ordinance Establishing Chapter 245 "Housing"

Mayor Coffey advised that this item was being held until a future meeting.

XII. Second Reading Ordinances:**#1033** An Ordinance Providing for Updates to Chapter 223 Fire Prevention

Councilman Tvrdik called for the 2nd reading and Public Hearing of an ordinance amending fire prevention and asked the Clerk to read the affidavit of publication of the proposed ordinance by title only. "**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 223 "FIRE PREVENTION"**" was published one time in the Two River Times on April 1, 2021.

PUBLIC HEARING: Mayor Coffey opened the meeting for public comment for this ordinance and gave the means by which to participate. As no one from the public presented to be heard, the public hearing was closed on a motion by Councilwoman Walker and seconded by Council President O'Brien.

Councilman Tvrdik made a motion to adopt the ordinance and advertise in accordance with law, which was seconded by Councilman Deerin.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Thomas Tvrdik, Councilman
SECONDER:	William Deerin, Councilman
AYES:	Deerin, Gallo, Keeshen, O'Brien, Tvrdik, Walker

#1036 An Ordinance to Amend the Salary Ordinance

Councilman Tvrdik called for the 2nd reading and Public Hearing of an amendment to the salary ordinance and asked the Clerk to read the affidavit of publication of the proposed ordinance by title only. "**AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY SETTING THE SALARY RANGES OF CERTAIN BOROUGH OFFICERS AND BOROUGH EMPLOYEES AND TO ESTABLISH A NEW RANGE FOR THE TAX COLLECTOR AS A FULL TIME POSITION**" was published one time in the Two River Times on April 1, 2021.

PUBLIC HEARING: Mayor Coffey opened the meeting for public comment for this ordinance and gave the means by which to participate. As no one from the public presented to be heard, the public hearing was closed on a motion by Councilman Deerin and seconded by Council President O'Brien.

Councilman Tvrdik made a motion to adopt the ordinance and advertise in accordance with law, which was seconded by Councilman Keeshen.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Thomas Tvrdik, Councilman
SECONDER:	Bryan Keeshen, Councilman
AYES:	Deerin, Gallo, Keeshen, O'Brien, Tvrdik, Walker

XIII. Resolutions:

#2021-91 Resolution awarding contract to Colliers Engineering (Maser) - Community Ctr Park Improvements

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	William Deerin, Councilman
SECONDER:	Meghan Walker, Councilwoman
AYES:	Deerin, Gallo, Keeshen, O'Brien, Tvrdik, Walker

#2021-92 Resolution awarding contract to Colliers Engineering (Maser) - Municipal Complex Practice Field
Discussion on the motion: Councilman Gallo asked what was the exact location and was told the area along Anson Drive where building was taken down. Councilman Gallo asked where would community garden go. Councilman Keeshen answered there was plenty of room but because area of disturbance to do grading to make space usable triggers a Freehold Soils Permit they were in need of the Engineer's services for a grading plan.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Bryan Keeshen, Councilman
SECONDER:	Michael O'Brien, Councilman
AYES:	Deerin, Gallo, Keeshen, O'Brien, Tvrdik, Walker

#2021-93 Resolution appointment of Jason Sutton as Tax Collector for unexpired term

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Michael O'Brien, Councilman
SECONDER:	Thomas Tvrdik, Councilman
AYES:	Deerin, Gallo, Keeshen, O'Brien, Tvrdik, Walker

XIV. Committee Reports:

1. Councilman Deerin, Parks and Recreation – Reported on progress with plans for Memorial Day parade with antique cars, bagpipers and more; Summer's End plans being worked on; new grant program available with plans to apply for improvements to Trinity Park; still waiting on studies and numbers for pool revitalization; defibrillators installed at Blackberry and Community centers; provided details on the upcoming Mini-Golf Tournament; Rec Committee has requested that Council waive the fee for field rental for camps using the fields due to the pandemic and providing an alternative camp this summer. There was discussion about any camps more social than athletic but none known. Councilman Deerin also advised that there would be no ceremony at the firehouse after the Memorial Day Parade.
2. Councilman Gallo, Public Works and Engineering – Reported on spring cleanup by public works continues with leaves out for pickup for the month of April; reminders to tie up brush and put out with garbage; road program is in full swing with curbing work being installed and paving to follow, weather permitting.

3. Councilman Keeshen, Public Safety – Reported that fire department continues to do monthly training; walk through scheduled for the new buildings and volunteers still being sought; reminder that April 24th is DEA RX take back day and provided details for residents to turn in unused medications; reminder to residents to keep vehicles locked due to an increase in car thefts and petty burglary in surrounding towns.
4. Councilman O'Brien, Finance and Administration – Acknowledged Peggy Warren again on her retirement and welcomed Jason Sutton in his new role; thanked Katie LaPorta for all her work on the budget, a daunting task; coordination of several parties and doesn't go unnoticed. Also thanked resident Steve Briskey who volunteered and brought over his own lawn mower to cut fields and be ready for lacrosse games.
5. Councilman Tvrdik, Planning and Development Liaison – Reported on planning board actions including new residents on Ticonderoga for a smaller home; meeting with residents from East Gate at Fort Monmouth to discuss traffic flow concerns with future developments coming; Board approved Phase I of the commissary project. He added his thanks for Peggy Warren's service to the community and borough and congratulated Jason Sutton on his promotion and extended his condolences for losses in the Gallo and Slattery families.
6. Councilwoman Walker, Health and Human Services Liaison – Provided updates on schools – new superintendent starting May 10th; referendum projects underway with media center at Wolf Hill to begin soon; classes are at 5 ½ days for full student body after Easter break; school budget hearing scheduled for 4/29; Maple Place graduation scheduled for June 22nd.

XV. Mayor Coffey's Report: Mayor Coffey also acknowledged loss of Richard Gallo, Sr. and long-time resident Jim Slattery who served as Fire Chief, OEM Coordinator and long-time Planning Board member; one year anniversary of the loss of Clem Sommers; municipal building up and running and moving towards re-opening to the public with protocols to ensure safety of employees and general public; vaccination of more than 100 people locally; Maple Place graduation will be held at Monmouth Park to be held outdoors; Borough parks remain open with the exception of some playgrounds and hope they are filled with people; T-ball games starting, looking forward to soccer fields being filled again as well as the pickle ball courts being completed; decisions to be made concerning best location of flag pole and memorials at new building and will need some engineering input; commented on the budget process and how smoothly the process went this year thanking Ms. LaPorta and the other department heads.

Mayor Coffey next discussed his letter of appointment distributed to the Council earlier that day; as a result of his discussion with Ms. Phelps about a month ago and then a session with department heads regarding appointment of a part time Superintendent to Public Works naming Steve Briskey, his qualifications and salary; letter went out today and is looking for Council to act in confirmation. Councilwoman Walker asked if it needed action tonight. Mayor Coffey answered that was the intent, Mr. Briskey would be starting May 3rd. Councilman Gallo asked why this hadn't gone through his committee. Mayor Coffey responded that it could be run through the committee but this was his recommendation. Councilman Gallo requested to table it so he could speak with his committee and workshop it. Mayor Coffey stated that his letter went out and come back next meeting with the report.

XVI. Petitions from the public: Mayor Coffey opened the meeting to the public and provided the participation information. As there was no one from the public, Mayor Coffey closed that portion of the meeting.

Councilman Tvrdik asked a question for a resident regarding the Summer's End Festival being held on 9/11's 20th Anniversary and asked if anything was planned. Councilman Deerin responded that they were planning and had hoped to get an Army band for the event. Mayor Coffey asked that we make sure that happens to set aside time during the event.

XVII. Adjournment: As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 PM on a motion by Councilman Tvrdik, seconded by Councilwoman Walker and approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Smith
BOROUGH CLERK