

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Oceanport, New Jersey
February 7, 2008

The Regular Meeting of the Oceanport Mayor and Council was called to order on January 3, 2008 at 8:00 P.M. with Mayor Mahon stating the meeting had been properly advertised in accordance with the law.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilpersons Briscione, Gallo, Ibex, Irace, Johnson and Mayor Mahon

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilwoman Kahle

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Borough Clerk, Kimberly A. Jungfer and Borough Attorney, John O. Bennett

INVOCATION: Borough Chaplin Robert Mills gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Mahon led the audience and members of the Council in the flag salute.

Mayor Mahon along with Councilman Briscione presented donations to the OEM, First Aid, Port-Au-Peck Chemical Fire Company and the Oceanport Hook and Ladder Fire Company for the Breeder's Cup 5K race.

The Borough Clerk stated there were 10 items on the Consent Agenda. Councilman Irace asked that item #9 be removed.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Resolution appointing Star Ledger as an official Borough Newspaper **R-08-28**
2. Resolution appointing an Administrative Assistant in the tax office. **R-08-29**
3. Resolution appointing a plumbing inspector. **R-08-30**
4. Resolution authorizing the payment of bills. **R-08-31**
5. Resolution transferring funds. **R-08-32**
6. Resolution amending the 2008 Temporary Budget. **R-08-33**
7. Resolution authorizing a Senior Citizen Tax Deduction **R-08-34**
8. Resolution authorizing a Veteran's Tax Deduction. **R-08-35**
9. Approval of the minutes from the Regular meeting of December 20, 2007.
10. Approval of the minutes of the Regular meeting of January 3, 2008.

The Clerk asked for a motion on the remaining items on the agenda. Councilman Johnson moved the items be approved which was seconded by Councilman Ibex and unanimously approved by Council members present.

The Clerk asked for a motion on Item #9 Approval of the meeting minutes from December 20, 2007. Councilman Johnson moved it be approved. Councilman Ibex seconded the motion, which was approved by Council members present with the exception of Council Irace who abstained as he was not a member of Council at the time of the meeting.

CLERK'S REPORT: None

COMMITTEES:

COUNCILMAN BRISCIONE: Councilman Briscione reported that as a result of the mild winter to date Public Works has shifted some of their attention to interior work and have finished painting the interior of

Borough Hall and Community Center. The new street signs have arrived and all roads that are currently without signs will have priority in the installation of the new signs. That work began today and thanked Scott Arnette, Marc Hunter and the vendor, Garden State Highway for amicably resolving an issue with the original signs.

Councilman Briscione stated that last week he met with the Borough Clerk, Public Works representatives and the Borough Engineer to discuss the road evaluation criteria in conjunction with the 2008-2009 Capital Road Program. Mr. White is working on cost estimates and Council will review those at the next workshop.

Councilman Briscione reported that with regard to Buildings and Grounds as a result of an inspection by DEP Hazmat Division the Borough fuel pumps failed inspection due to problems with the monitoring system and vapor recovery. Those problems have been addressed and repairs have been made and we are now able to accept fuel deliveries, but as of this morning a mechanical valve on the filler tube was not allowing the acceptance of gasoline. Public Works, along with the vendor, are working on correcting this problem. Councilman Briscione stated that it needs to be discussed as to whether we should do further work on these tanks or look to take them above ground which he will discuss at workshop.

COUNCILMAN GALLO: No Report

COUNCILMAN IBEX: No Report

COUNCILWOMAN KAHLE: Mayor Mahon reported on behalf of Councilwoman Kahle who was not in attendance. The Mayor asked the Council, though it was not discussed in workshop, if they wanted to consider the Environmental Commission appointment and the recommendation on amending the ordinance to increase the members of that committee. Councilman Irace asked if we would be advertising for this position and Mayor Mahon stated that had already happened. The Environmental Commission reviewed the resumes and would recommend three individuals which is why they are asking that the ordinance be amended to increase the membership. The Clerk stated that the Council can do the appointment to fill the vacancy could be done but the amendment to the ordinance would have to wait until it can be prepared. Councilman Briscione asked if typically the Environmental Commission tell the Council who the members are. The Clerk stated that there was a great interest for volunteers to the Environmental Commission and therefore is asking for the increase in membership. Councilman Briscione asked if Council got the resumes and Mayor Mahon stated that they were given to the Environmental Commission for their recommendation and the Clerk added that this was similar to the way it is done for the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Mayor Mahon stated that Karen D'Agostino has been recommended for appointment replacing John Vivona. There were not objections from Council, therefore the Mayor appointed Karen D'Agostino to fill the vacancy left by John Vivona on the Environmental Commission.

COUNCILMAN IRACE: Councilman Irace stated that the Finance and Administration Committee has been in the process of putting together a budget for 2008 and have been meeting on a weekly basis since January 13th either as a committee or full Council. Everyone is trying to put together a fair budget that maintains all services but also maintains fiscal responsibility. Councilman Irace stated that Oceanport faces many burdens financially in 2008 including State mandated pensions contributions, higher health care costs and increased utility costs, however with the CFO and Borough Clerk, they followed almost a level funding mandate with regard to discretionary spending and hope to keep the tax increase down to a minimum amount this year.

Councilman Irace continued that it might be recommended to take on an increased capital program in 2008 to take advantage of the historically low interest rates and with that hope to fix some additional road and other issues that are plaguing the Borough. He stated he would report more on budget has it is finalized.

COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Councilman Johnson stated that there were two ordinances on the agenda for second reading and called for the 2nd reading and public hearing of the **Stormwater Control Ordinance** and then asked the Clerk to read the proposed Ordinance by title only.

Mayor Mahon then opened the meeting to the public for anyone who wished to be heard. As no one from the public wished to be heard, a motion was made by Councilman Johnson to close the public hearing, which was seconded by Councilman Irace and approved by Council.

Councilman Johnson then made a motion to adopt the Ordinance on second and final reading and advertise same in accordance with the law, which was seconded by Councilman Irace.

The Clerk called roll:

AYES: Briscione, Gallo, Ibex, Irace, Johnson
NAYES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Kahle

Councilman Johnson called for the 2nd reading and public hearing of the ordinance repealing the **Public Safety Advisory Committee** and then asked the Clerk to read the proposed Ordinance by title only.

Mayor Mahon then opened the meeting to the public for anyone who wished to be heard. As no one from the public wished to be heard the public portion was closed.

Thomas Crochet, 21 Center Street. Mr. Crochet want to remind everyone that the late Mayor Gatta who put this committee together she had a vision of pulling all the departments together to try to get them to work together, share resources and eliminating the duplication of efforts. At the first meeting of the committee, then Chairman former Police Chief Bebout, told everyone to put the egos aside and work together and unfortunately that did not happen and he felt that Committee failed because of that. Mr. Crochet commented that the way the Council has been restructured with the new committees he felt was a good idea and wanted to impress upon the Councilmember's of the new Public Safety Committee that they review the ordinance and use some of the guidelines to continue to try to keep the emergency services working together.

As no one else from the public wished to be heard a motion was made by Councilman Ibex to close the public hearing, which was seconded by Councilman Briscione and approved by Council.

Councilman Johnson then made a motion to adopt the Ordinance on second and final reading and advertise same in accordance with the law, which was seconded by Councilman Irace.

The Clerk called roll:

AYES: Briscione, Gallo, Ibex, Irace, Johnson
NAYES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Kahle

Councilman Johnson stated that the Planning Board elected the officers in January with the Chairman being Chris Widdis, Vice-Chairman, Jim Whitson, Attorney, Rick DeNoia, Secretary, Jeanne Smith and Engineer, Bill White.

MAYOR MAHON: Mayor Mahon reported that the appointment to the Economic Development Committee will be held until the next meeting.

Mayor Mahon stated that Mayor and Council are doing a lot of work in the Workshop meetings working on a variety of issues. Each member of Council is intimately involved in what is being done. He thanked Councilman Briscione, Council President Kahle and Councilman Johnson for attending meetings in his absence on the Borough's behalf over the course of the last two weeks. It is important that besides the Mayor's perspective and attendance at meetings, that the different view points that the Council represent is also present at meetings.

Mayor Mahon then spoke to Mr. Crochet's comments stating that the previous Public Safety Committee, without any judgment to its value or service, by necessity there is conflict between that committee on how it was structured and reorganization of the Council. It is important in a weak Mayor, strong Council form of government that the Council members take the lead in those positions and under the previous format that was not the case. It was an advisory committee to the Mayor and under the new structure it is organized under three Council people. He thanked him for his comments.

The Mayor then opened the meeting to any member of the public who wished to be heard.

Laura Hornung, First Aid Captain asked that under the structure of the new committees, does anyone go to the meetings of the organizations. Mayor Mahon stated that the thought is that the leaders of the different public safety organizations will meet on an as needed basis with their committee and that those Council members can still attend the meetings, however the formal method of communication between the organizations and the decision making process is with the leaders of the committee's attendance at a meeting of that Council committee.

Ms. Hornung asked then if they will have meeting and notify the organizations of the meetings and the Mayor stated that was correct.

As no one else from the public wished to be hear the Mayor closed the public portion of the meeting on a motion from Councilman Irace and second from Councilman Briscione.

List: Ad Hoc \$1,349.95. Capital Trust Total \$7,111.00. Dog Registry Total \$200.00. Escrow Trust Total \$2,649.75. Open Space \$2,400.00. Shade Tree \$75.00. Water Watch \$162.00. 2007 Vouchers Paid \$50,586.84. 2007 Voucher Paid this Meeting \$30,693.34. Total 2007 Vouchers Paid \$81,280.18. 2008 Vouchers Paid \$1,758,556.32. 2008 Vouchers Paid this Meeting \$1, 8360,870.44 Total 2008 Vouchers Paid \$3,619,426.76.

The Mayor then opened the meeting for anyone from the public who wished to be heard.

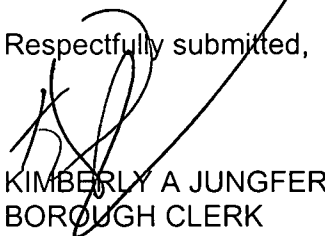
As no one else from the public wished to be heard the Mayor closed the public portion of the meeting.

At 8:20 p.m. there was a motion to adjourn to workshop from Councilman Briscione, seconded by Councilman Johnson and unanimously approved by Council.

At 9:46 p.m. the Regular Meeting was reopened on a motion from Councilman Ibex and second from Councilman Irace.

As there was no further business the Councilman Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ibex and unanimously approved by the members present.

Respectfully submitted,


KIMBERLY A JUNGFER
BOROUGH CLERK