



BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT

MAYOR & COUNCIL

MINUTES • FEBRUARY 4, 2021

Workshop

REMOTE/VIRTUAL

7:00 PM

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

- I. **Meeting Called to Order:** Mayor Coffey called the meeting to order at 7:00 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 was unable to attend.

V. **Roll Call:**

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Jay Coffey	Mayor	Remote	
William Deerin	Councilman	Absent	
Richard Gallo	Councilman	Remote	
Bryan Keeshen	Councilman	Absent	
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 Office	Remote	

VI. **Payment of Bills:**

#2021-49 Resolution authorizing payment of BILL LIST 02-04-2021

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

- VII. **Administrator's Report:** Ms. Phelps reported on items including adjustments at the municipal building, HVAC system, key distribution, thanked Ms. Smith for her assistance in setting up the remote system for court to be held in new municipal building and no longer need to use Rumson or Little Silver facilities; last two weeks spent setting up offices with staff and DPW and thanked Mayor and Council for their new home; recent major nor'easter storm event and great job by DPW keeping streets open.

VIII. **Clerk's Report:**

1. Liquor License Activation - The Marina at Fort Monmouth – Ms. Smith advised that she had received notification from the Marina Restaurant that they were ready to activate the pocket liquor license now that they would be closing on the property and would no longer be using the State's concessionaire license. Action on the item would be on for the regular meeting.
2. An Ordinance Providing for Updates to Chapter 223 Fire Prevention – Ms. Smith advised that Fire Official Tim Griffin had submitted recommendations for additional amendments to the Borough's code. Mr. Griffin was in attendance and briefly explained the recommended changes including updates to the fees, regulations for smoke detectors and fire extinguishers and the ability to charge for fire truck standbys. As there were no questions or objections, Ms. Smith advised that the ordinance introduced on January 21, 2021 would be amended to include the recommendations, re-introduced on Feb. 18th and new public hearing scheduled for March regular meeting.
3. An Ordinance to Increase Fees for Liquor Licenses – Ms. Smith advised that this was routine amendment to bring the Borough's license fees to the amounts permitted by the State to be charged due to numerous years of no increases. Statute limits increases to 20% annually until the maximum amount was reached. As there were no objections, the ordinance would be ready for

Regular Meeting Items: Ms. Smith reviewed items for the regular meeting, asked for any questions or corrections on minutes and hearing none those items were moved forward to the next meeting for action.

Councilwoman Walker asked Ms. Smith if she receives minutes from Environmental and Water Watch as she doesn't see them on the agendas and she knows that they are taken. Ms. Smith advised no, she does request them and usually once a year the environmental committee does forward over. Councilwoman Walker will look into it with those committees.

- IX. **Discussion Items:** Mayor Coffey led discussion on a request from the Boy Scouts to use the Port Au Peck Firehouse for their meetings. They had been meeting outside but with the cold are looking to move their meetings inside. Two groups of 6-7 children and 1-2 adults. Discussion ensued on topics including whether to provide facility, guidelines for use such as social distancing, sufficient space, potential liability, seek guidance from insurance risk manager, follow parameters of Governor's orders for building capacities, removal of fire trucks, sanitization between uses, limit to civic entities as a phase-in and expand to other users as circumstances improve. The Administrator was charged with contacting the JIF and the Borough Attorney would research protocols and forms language and bring back to the next meeting for a decision.
- X. **Mayor's Report:** Mayor Coffey commented on topics including the move into the new buildings, nice article by the Two River Times on the relocation; meetings continue remotely including court from the new building, the technology is working and need to continue embracing technology moving forward with the building department and SDL and being more responsive; recent storm and response – with 6 DPW staff doing a phenomenal job, communications with public during storm event and how to improve technology to keep public updated on where plowing is occurring; the Borough didn't miss a beat with municipal council meetings thanks to Mr. Abboud and Ms. Smith, the same with Planning Board; and now that we're in the new building there's a need to transform the public services provided to people and doing that through technology and add to transparency how the Borough operates; the need to have the talent to operate the technology and services. Mayor Coffey next discussed the Borough's 26 miles of roads, the road conditions, the need for an inventory and assessment of the roads, the need to establish a road maintenance system not based on complaints and be proactive, not reactive; the need to inform residents of the cost and the service to be provided; the Borough has significant pool of talented residents and seek commitments to implement the Capital Improvement Committee. Last year's budget was fantastic as they figured out how to plug a lot of holes and not really impact the taxpayers; continue being mindful and honest with the taxpayers as investments are made such as the new school infrastructure and keeping them informed with a plan.
- XI. **Petitions from the Public:** Mayor Coffey opened the meeting to the public and provided the participation information.

While waiting for members of the public to respond, Councilman Tvrdik commented that a resident had reached out to him about the condition on Gooseneck Point Road and after looking it asked if Councilman Gallo could look into filling in the potholes. Councilwoman Walker asked what could be done about the County portion of Oceanport road between

Main Street and the bridge into little Silver. Mayor Coffey responded that he believes they are waiting until after the improvements are completed at the Fort and potentially get a developer to contribute.

As there was no one from the public, Mayor Coffey closed that portion of the meeting.

- XII. Adjournment:** As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 PM on a motion by Council President O'Brien, seconded by Councilwoman Walker and approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Smith
BOROUGH CLERK