



BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT

MAYOR & COUNCIL

MINUTES • JANUARY 18, 2024

Workshop

Clement V. Sommers Municipal Building

7:00 PM

910 Oceanport Way, Oceanport, NJ 07757

- I. **Meeting Called to Order:** Mayor Tvrdik 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 5, 2024 of this 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.
- III. **Flag Salute, Statement to the Public:** Mayor Tvrdik led members of the public and Council in the flag salute.
- IV. **Roll Call:**

Attendee Name	Title	Status
Thomas Tvrdik	Mayor	Present
William Deerin	Councilman	Present
Richard Gallo	Councilman	Present
Bryan Keeshen	Councilman	Present
Michael O'Brien	Councilman	Present
Keith Salnick	Councilman	Remote
Jeanne Smith	Borough Clerk	Present
Andrew Bayer	Borough Attorney	Present
Donna M. Phelps	Administrator	Present
Catherine D. LaPorta	Chief Financial Officer	Present

- V. **Public Comment on Action Items** - None
- VI. **Action Items:** None
- VII. **Clerk's Report:**

- Public Hearing for Grant Application to the Green Acres Program – Ms. Smith and Ms. Phelps discussed a grant opportunity through Jake's Law for Green Acres funding to install an all-inclusive playground system at Blackberry Bay Park. The application requires a public hearing that would be scheduled for the February 1 Workshop for public input. Council responded favorably to the opportunity and consent was to proceed with notice requirements for the hearing as well as promote community feedback through the schools, library, fire department and more.
- Municipal Vacancy Law - Council seat appointment – Ms. Smith summarized the requirements under the statute for filling a Council vacancy, advised that interested candidates has been forwarded to the Council prior to the meeting for their consideration, however, any nominee could be named as the vacated seat was not related to a political party. Ms. Smith advised that a draft resolution was prepared for action at the regular agenda that would be finalized upon nomination and motion and requested if the Council was ready to act. Council consent was to amend the regular meeting agenda to add an item for action on filling the vacancy.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Resolution authorizing payment of BILL LIST 01-18-2024 – *reviewed and moved forward*
- Resolution promoting Dan Swoope to full time laborer for the Public Works Dept – *reviewed and moved forward*
- Resolution authorizing an Agreement with OPBOE for School Resource Officer – *reviewed and moved forward*
- Resolution appointing Patrolman George Peacock to permanent status – *reviewed and moved forward*
- Resolution promoting Shane Carroll to Patrolman I – *reviewed and moved forward*
- Resolution appointing Matthew Kozak as Patrolman I – *reviewed and moved forward*
- Resolution authorizing release of performance guarantee to Martelli Development – *reviewed and moved forward*
- Resolution authorizing first Amendment to MOU with FMERA for Demolition of Bldgs 550, 551 – *reviewed and moved forward*

9. Resolution awarding contract for Buildings 550 & 551 Demolition Project – *reviewed and moved forward*
10. Resolution authorizing an MOU with FMERA for Engineering Services - Stormwater Infrastructure – *reviewed and moved forward*
11. Ordinance Replacing Chapter 284, Peace and Good Order – *reviewed and moved forward*
12. Resolution authorizing agreement with City of Long Branch for Supplemental Fire Coverage - ~~Added~~ – *reviewed and moved forward*
13. Resolution awarding contract for HVAC Services to Automated Building Controls - ~~Added~~ – *reviewed and moved forward to be taken by separate action due to a conflict at request of Councilman Keeshen.*
14. Resolution authorizing competitive contracting for Special Projects Engineer - ~~Added~~ – *reviewed and moved forward*
15. Resolution authorizing an emergency appropriation to the temporary budget - ~~Added~~ – *reviewed and moved forward*

VIII. Administrator's Report: Monmouth Park has reached out for their annual approval of 10 flights for the season per FAA requirements; the BRIC application has been submitted to OEM for submission to FEMA which will provide for improvements to Borough's stormwater drainage system and replacement of the Oceanport Avenue Bridge which will be paid for by the County; the grant for the Community Center improvements has been closed out and the Borough received reimbursement in the amount of \$150,000; work continues on the installation of the message board sign at Gatta Park including retrofit of the casing and DPW will take care of the excavating; preparations for a grant application that will include fencing at Blackberry Bay Park playground, gates for Maria Gatta Park; thanked Public Works for the great job on the storm with no complaints to the front office and only a few phone calls by DPW; DPW staff had a meeting earlier to prepare for tomorrow's storm.

IX. Mayor Tvrdik's Report: Mayor Tvrdik reported on items including the schools are interviewing for a new superintendent; discussions with members of the Board of Education and their Business Administrator to finalize details for the School Resource Officer Agreement that was acted upon earlier – the BOE will pay for 10 months of use with a Step 9 officer at Step 3 rate; officer will be available for peak months in July and August to help with speeding and enforcement in the Borough. He thanked Mr. Patterson and the Board of Ed members for recognizing the growth of the town and the safety of the children; he toured the attic addition at Wolf Hill School which will allow classroom areas to expand and encouraged the public to attend the ribbon cutting ceremony on Feb. 6 at 7pm. He further reported on visits to Lunch Break and Family Promise facilities and the amount of people they serve is impressive with potential plans for Family Promise to construct additional temporary housing – a project that would be on the county's property across the street. The children housed there will go to the schools in the towns they come from, support for folks to get back on their feet. On Jan. 11th, resident Toni Sverapa started a collection that the Borough jumped in with collecting goods for various organizations such as the Reformation Food Pantry in West Long Branch, a group called Misfit Angels that goes out to warming centers inn Newark and New York Penn Station, out on the streets, with clothes and food. There were many donations received and delivered and it was amazing to see, everybody helping out especially in cold times and the holidays when its needed the most. The donation box is still available in the front foyer of Borough Hall. He reported on attending the FMERA Real Estate Committee meeting with discussions on the increase to the MOU for demolishing two buildings across the street from the Fitness Center; FMERA will also engage Colliers Engineering to do a stormwater study and invest in the infrastructure through Eatontown and Oceanport, all roads are being prepared to standards that the Borough can accept when ready to deliver to the Borough. FMERA is also investing \$9.2 million with JCP&L to install a standalone station to service all areas of the Fort; already invested was \$10 million for sewer improvements and an additional \$2 million for onboarding everyone on the new sewer system through Two Rivers Water Reclamation Authority. Additional projects include replacing the Army water system, transfer of roadways, possible dredging of Huskey Brook where it goes out to the marina to help with flooding and runoff. Discussions are being held to look into dredging some of the back rivers off, creeks – the one behind Maple Place School. He provided updates on meetings with Netflix and the relationship developing with the Borough and the beginning of discussions regarding community benefits. He is looking to put together a Community Benefits Committee comprised of Oceanport stakeholders and citizen representatives – those interested should complete the volunteer application on the website. Plans for a town hall meeting with Netflix is a goal for anyone in the community. Thanks to Public Works on a great job on the ice storm, worked all night, came in late, maintenance also for both schools. Mayor Tvrdik next discussed the uptick in car burglaries and a recent event with officers responding in two minutes that involved a high speed chase with speeds in excess of 100mph. He has asked the Borough Attorney to review another town's ordinance to determine if its something that can be done in Oceanport to deter these activities and will work with the Police Chief because some it would be criminal. He concluded with best wished for a speedy recovery for Buddy Brocklebank and wished Maggie Lippolis a Happy Birthday.

X. Public Comment: Mayor Tvrdik opened the meeting to comments from the public. As no one else appeared, that portion of the meeting was closed.

- XI. Adjournment:** As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 PM on a motion by Councilman O'Brien, seconded by Council President Deerin and approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Smith
BOROUGH CLERK