

REGULAR MEETING

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Oceanport, New Jersey
December 19, 1991

REGULAR MEETING: The regular meeting of the Oceanport Mayor and Council was called to order on December 19, 1991 at 8:03 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilpersons McGee, Terra, Filippone, Miller, Rodman, Wolfe and Mayor Cavanagh.

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Borough Clerk, Patricia L. Varca and Borough Attorney, Francis A. Margalotti.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Cavanagh led the audience and members of the Council in the Flag Salute.

Mayor Cavanagh stated that he is going to take the agenda out of order and read the proclamation regarding Port-au-Peck Chemical Hose Fire Company's 75th Anniversary. Mayor Cavanagh stated that all of the members of the Council recognize how valuable our volunteer people are and we share in the gratitude expressed by the residents to each of the members of the Fire Company. He continued that all of us that get involved in Government are often a little bit richer for having been able to know each of the firemen and recognize the kind of sacrifice that the men put out over and over again. Mayor Cavanagh stated if the Borough had to pay for the kind of service we get from the fire companies, it would most likely be prohibitive and we would not be able to provide it and the sense of the Community does come from the volunteer organizations such as the fire companies and he formally stated for the record that tonight we wish to honor the Port-au-Peck Chemical Hose Fire Company and asked the members of the Company who were in the audience to come forward and accept the proclamation and have a photograph taken.

As copies of the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 5, 1991 had been made available for review by the Governing Body, Councilman Wolfe moved to waive the reading of same and approve the minutes as presented by the Borough Clerk. It was seconded by Councilman Rodman and approved by Council with the exception of Councilman Miller who abstained from voting since he was not present at this meeting.

CLERK'S REPORTS:

1. Police report for the month of NOVEMBER, 1991 and a copy will be posted on the Bulletin Board.
2. Taxi license renewal applications made by the following:
 - a) Anthony Sestito t/a CITY CAB
 - b) Chris Amecangelo t/a CHRIS'S CAB

The Clerk reported that all required fees had been paid and the vehicles had been inspected and approved by the Police Department after which Councilman Rodman moved to approve said license applications. It was seconded by Councilwoman Filippone and unanimously approved by Council.

COMMITTEES:

COUNCILMAN MCGEE: Councilman McGee commented that it is hard to believe that more than 3 years have passed since his neighbor, Bruce Rodman, asked him if he would like to run for Borough Council, which he agreed to because he feels that everyone should contribute to their community in some way. He continued that Councilman Rodman and he spent a lot of time talking with citizens, young and old, and learned a lot about this community as well as getting to know a man who started out as an acquaintance and became a friend.

Councilman McGee stated he has experienced much during the past three years and learned about politics, about what makes a community tick and the people who make it tick. He stated he has learned much about the parts and pieces that go into making the whole. Councilman McGee commented that he has had the good fortune to meet and work with people like Borough Clerk, Patricia Varca who is a wealth of information and her Secretary, Diane Super, who is probably the most under appreciated person in Borough Hall and felt that Oceanport is very fortunate to have these two dedicated ladies in its employ and stated that they were both invaluable to him in getting some heating and air conditioning work resolved in Borough Hall and for that he is indebted.

Councilman McGee stated that during his term in office there were many highlights which included a fuel oil spill in Parker's Creek complete with a Disaster Control Field Headquarters and Coast Guard personnel, flooding which required our Emergency Management people to demonstrate their skills and Port-au-Peck Chemical Hose Company's 75th Anniversary observance, to name just a few. He continued that last year we were all experiencing Desert Storm and all the emotions that went along with it and a few months later, the Mayor and his fellow Council members were able to participate in Fort Monmouth's Welcome Home Celebration by serving dinner to the returning soldiers and their families and it was a wonderful experience.

Councilman McGee reflected that during the past three years there have been births--John Rodman is now two and a half years old, as well as illnesses and death--Felix Foggia, families of our Police personnel and most recently, Capt. Philip Budinski. He continued that Ski was a terrific guy who he is glad he had the good fortune to get to know and to his family, he offered his heart felt sympathy.

Councilman McGee stated that it has been an honor and a privilege to serve the people of Oceanport and advised the Mayor and his fellow Council members that he will never forget this experience and wished all the very best that life has to offer and good health and a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Councilman McGee also wished good luck to Larry Taylor and Sol Clark in their future endeavors on this dais and he pledged to work with them to maintain the continuity so that the Borough stays in step.

COUNCILMAN TERRA: Councilman Terra stated he wished to comment on his relationship with both Councilmen McGee and Rodman, which he felt has been worthwhile and all of us have had a lot of fun running the Borough together and they have contributed significantly toward making Oceanport a terrific place to live. He stated he will miss both of them and wished them luck and holiday wishes.

Councilman Terra offered his condolences to the Budinski family and commented that this is quite a loss to the Borough, and it is especially difficult during the holiday season and we are all affected by Ski's passing.

COUNCILWOMAN FILIPPONE: Councilwoman Filippone also voiced her appreciation to both Councilmen McGee and Rodman for the 3 years they have given to this Borough and stated they have been dedicated Councilmen and it has been a pleasure working with them and they have both been forceful and dynamic and have certainly been a credit to the community and it has been a pleasure getting to know them. She wished them both the best of health and good luck in the future.

Councilwoman Filippone commented how sorry she is, as well as her family, about the recent passing of Ski and she got to know him really well over the past several years as the Council Liaison to the First Aid Squad and she could always count on him to kid her and he will be a big loss to the Borough.

Councilwoman Filippone congratulated the Oceanport Senior Citizens Club, who have recently celebrated their 20th Anniversary and some of the original members are still very active in the Club and they are a credit to our Community.

Councilwoman Filippone also expressed her regrets that Sue Richards will be leaving Oceanport and obviously the Oceanport First Aid Squad will also miss her terribly. She commented that Sue was recently married and will be moving to Florida shortly and she wished Sue and her new husband all the best.

Councilwoman Filippone reported that the Captain of Oceanport First Aid Squad, Ed Ryan, has informed her that they had a total of person hours totalling 130 this month and total calls of 19. She also commented that one of the calls they answered yesterday was a very serious automobile accident and they all remarked that if the man in the truck did not have his seatbelt on it would have been a tragedy and she urged everyone to use their seatbelts even if you are just going out for a short trip.

Councilwoman Filippone also reported the First Aid Squad held their election of officers last night and the Captain in 1992 will be Joanne Campbell and the new President will be Joe Lombardo, Vice-President will be Ed Ryan, Secretary will be Carole Connor, Treasurer will be John Connor, Ass't. Secretary & Treasurer will be Edie Ryan. She also stated that their bazaar was a success although they did have a smaller amount of income than last year, but it was better than anticipated because of the economy. She also reminded everyone that the Christmas trees are still on sale and commented that this year they have given some trees away free to needy families and reduced the prices of trees where necessary.

Councilwoman Filippone asked everyone to mark their calendars because on March 21, 1992 the Squad will hold a ceremony to re-name the building after Captain Philip Budinski in memory of Ski and on December 8, 1992 they will be conducting a memorial ceremony in his honor.

Councilwoman Filippone wished all the residents of the Borough good health during the coming year and a Merry Christmas.

COUNCILMAN MILLER: Councilman Miller thanked the Recreation Committee and member Carol Pierson for conducting a very beautiful holiday tree lighting ceremony and Kevin Pryor and the Shore Regional High School Choral Group for supplying the music and at the ceremonies, Stan Nadler was presented with a gift for his 10 years of service as a member of the

Recreation Committee. Councilman Miller also thanked the members of the Port-au-Peck Chemical Hose Fire Company for their help in putting the lights on the tree and supplying a vehicle for Santa to arrive on.

Councilman Miller offered his thanks to Gary Coleman who is a member of the Oceanport Environmental Commission who works for the NJ American Water Co. and was able to get the Company to donate some analytical equipment which is still in pretty good working order and will enable our Water Watch Committee to continue testing the river on a more precise level and speed up the process.

Councilman Miller advised that our winter recreation is in the form of Basketball and we have approximately 200 youngsters involved and thanked Paul Roller for running that program and commented that Councilman McGee is already coaching one of the basketball teams.

Councilman Miller also expressed his sympathy on the passing of Captain Budinski and commented that in the past two years he has been on the Council, he has had a change on several occasions to interact with Ski and he was always supportive and helpful.

Councilman Miller wished the residents of the community a happy holiday and prosperous and Happy New Year.

Councilman Miller wished both Councilmen McGee and Rodman well and stated that he enjoyed working with them and commented that they have always conducted themselves in a professional manner.

COUNCILMAN RODMAN: Councilman Rodman also offered his deep condolences to the Budinski family and stated that this fellow was more than just a cop who showed for a shift and then went home and was deeply involved with the First Aid Squad as a volunteer and he also had a very unusual touch, he felt, that as a Policeman he was able to deal with everyone in the community that he came in contact with, equally effective with very young children as well as teenagers, troubled young people, adults and senior citizens and was able to relate to everyone and he will just never understand why death can claim someone with Ski's gifts at such an early age. He felt that his passing was a true loss for this Borough, not just as an employee, but as a human being and a participant in the town.

Councilman Rodman stated as Councilman McGee commented earlier, it has been almost four years since he roped his unsuspecting neighbor into running for Borough Council with him and now we are almost at the end of our terms. He stated honestly that he would not have done it or remained on Council without Councilman McGee and thanked him and his family for their time and support that he has lent him on this Council. Councilman Rodman commented that he chose not to run for re-election because his priorities have changed--three years ago he did not have a son, his brother did not have cancer and his family was not looking for a new home. He stated that now his son is two and a half, his brother is better and he hopes to be buying a new house and at this point in his life, his family is the most important thing to him and that comes first. and he is reminded of the words of Mr. Wilcox, who sits on the Planning Board with much experience, who stated that the one thing he wished he had done over was to spend more time with his family, and that is one thing that you cannot get back, so that is what he is going to be concentrating on in the future.

Councilman Rodman stated that his Council experience has been most interesting and most rewarding has been the contact with the many people

that make Oceanport a better place, which includes the Board of Education members, Recreation Committee members, First Aiders, Firemen, Municipal Employees and many, many others who participate and contribute to make this a great town to live in. He continued that none of this would be possible without the love and support of his wife Kathy and his family, who endured countless meetings and hurried dinners and he thanked them for putting up with it all.

Councilman Rodman stated that he tried to approach this job with the assumption that he was not a Councilman, put merely someone who occupied a position of public trust on a temporary basis. He tried to keep the Municipal Government's role as unobtrusive and inexpensive as possible and to his successor he wished him the time, patience and wisdom to make the best decisions for the whole time and wished both Larry Taylor and Sol Clark the best of luck.

COUNCILMAN WOLFE: Councilman Wolfe asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-91-68** requesting approval to insert several items of revenue into the 1991 budget, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilman Miller and unanimously approved by Council.

Councilman Wolfe asked the Clerk to read resolution **R-91-69** transferring funds, after which he moved to approve same. It was seconded by Councilwoman Filippone and unanimously approved by Council.

Councilman Wolfe extended his sincere condolences to the Budinski family and to our Police Department and First Aid Squad, who also suffered a terrible loss as well as the entire Borough.

Councilman Wolfe reported on a meeting he had attended this past Tuesday with Bob Wilcox, who is our Cross Acceptance Representative from the Planning Board and the State and County had questioned us about the various elements of our Cross Acceptance Plan and upon going over some of the questions and answers over a three hour period, they have informally accepted the Borough's plan and it appears that the State Representative from the Cross Acceptance Plan stated that by June of 1992 the State Plan will be formalized and were satisfied with our proposal.

Councilman Wolfe advised that he has received a letter from the office of Judge Milberg from the Court Administrator thanking the Borough for the participation in the Community Service Program during 1991. Councilman Wolfe stated this thank you is extended to Patti Varca, Diane Super and Mike Giordano for taking care of the individuals appointed by the Court and the required paperwork that has to be undertaken and he felt that the people that have been appointed to the Borough have all worked out very well and logged hundreds of hours working in the parks, Public Works and the Police Department and it has been a great savings to the Borough.

Councilman Wolfe thanked all the Borough Employees, especially Patti Varca and Diane Super as well as Mike Giordano, who he has worked very closely with this past year and felt we have made some very constructive efforts and looked forward to working with everyone next year.

Councilman Wolfe wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and wished Councilmen McGee and Rodman the best of luck in their future endeavors.

MAYOR CAVANAGH: Mayor Cavanagh stated he wished to add some commentary about Ski's passing and sometimes when someone dies, there is a tendency to make more out of their life than when they were here, but we don't have to do that because Ski did a good job while he was here. He stated his relationship with Ski was kind of a strange one because if you knew him, you would know that he and Ski would not really figure to have a lot in common in many ways. He commented that Ski was a good guy and did a lot for many, many people and for that we thank him and Karine is going to have a tough time getting used to life without him and felt that perhaps we could all help her in that area. Mayor Cavanagh stated the most difficult part is that they do not make a lot of people like Ski and no one generally rushes forth to do all the things that he did and he hoped that there is a large void with his passing.

Mayor Cavanagh reported that he spent approximately one hour with our Borough Auditor this morning and he only wanted to say that the only good thing said during the hour was that we are in better shape than Woodbridge, who are fifteen million dollars short. He stated on a serious note, basically the budget process is becoming so much less important on our end because the loss of revenues and the control that goes on in Trenton almost makes what we are doing not substantial and we will find that again this year. He continued Mr. Hulsart advised that we will probably see a loss in the funding from the school monies which was about four cents and he feels that we are also going to see a loss in the franchise tax concept, so as he added up the pennies, before we sit down to spend any other money, we are looking at a tax increase.

Mayor Cavanagh commented that none of the news he received was very optimistic and this is all with no new spending anticipated in the 1992 budget. He also stated that in 1995 we get to figure out how the Governor would like us to replace the \$600,000 he made us spend last year.

Mayor Cavanagh stated tonight we bid good bye to Councilmen McGee and Rodman and the community owes them a debt of gratitude for all the time and energy they have put forth. He stated no one realizes how much time is spent until you are here doing it and then if people realize the true reasons why we do these things. He stated that he can identify with what they both said earlier, because his children grew up with this process.

Mayor Cavanagh presented Councilmen McGee and Rodman with a plaque extending the appreciation and thanks for their years of dedicated service to the Borough during their term of office as Councilmen.

Mayor Cavanagh then stated that in the continuing feeling that one cannot ever take oneself too seriously, he had a special photograph for Councilman Rodman and it is certainly not to exclude Councilman McGee, but he was not present at Oceanport Day this year when the picture was taken and Councilman Rodman had requested a copy of the photograph. Mayor Cavanagh stated he put a message on the top which states that this is the way he would like Bruce to remember his tenure in office as a Councilman...surrounded by Democrats.

Councilman Rodman thanked the Mayor and stated that it has been a pleasure working with everyone on the dais as well as Phil Apruzzi and one thing he has noticed, even in meeting up with past Councilpersons, it is always very easy and very cordial and you get the feeling that although there is always the Democrat/Republican situation, in the end, they are all people who have taken the time to serve their Borough and there is a comradery that exists between everyone who has served on the dais.

Mayor Cavanagh commented that Clem Sommers was his predecessor and he has often said that he did a good job when he was here and felt that we have a pretty decent relationship and the same way with all the other people who have served on this Council and felt that in this Borough, we handle that artificial barrier better than most and hope that we always will and felt that there is a genuine respect for each other for what we do.

Mayor Cavanagh opened the meeting to the public for any comments they might wish to make.

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

Councilman Wolfe moved to approve the bills as listed on the Voucher Register dated December 19, 1991. It was seconded by Councilman Terra and approved by Council with the exception of Councilman Miller who abstained from voting on the reimbursement for his expenses through Recreation. TOTAL 1991 VOUCHERS \$58,410.83. TOTAL 1991 VOUCHERS PAID THIS MEETING \$65,062.82. TOTAL 1991 OPERATING FUND \$123,473.65. TOTAL PUBLIC ASSISTANCE TRUST ACCOUNT \$308.00. TOTAL RECREATION TRUST ACCOUNT \$495.88. TOTAL TRUST ACCOUNT \$1,871.20. (SEE VOUCHER REGISTER)

At 8:52 P.M. Councilwoman Filippone moved to adjourn this meeting. It was seconded by Councilman Terra and unanimously approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia L. Varca

PATRICIA L. VARCA
BOROUGH CLERK

