



BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT

MAYOR & COUNCIL

MINUTES • NOVEMBER 8, 2018

Special Meeting

Maple Place School

7:00 PM

2 Maple Place, Oceanport, NJ 07757

- I. **Call to Order:** Council President Irace called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. **Statement of Compliance with Open Public Meetings Act:** Council President stated adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by notice to the Asbury Park Press and The Link News on November 5, 2018, and by the posting of same on the municipal bulletin board and Borough Web Site."
- III. **Flag Salute:** Council President Irace led the audience 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	
Patty Cooper	Councilwoman	Present	
William Deerin	Councilman	Absent	
Richard Gallo	Councilman	Present	
Joseph A. Irace	Council President	Present	
Robert Proto	Councilman	Present	
Stephen Solan	Councilman	Present	
Donna Phelps	Acting Borough Administrator	Present	
Jeanne Smith	Borough Clerk	Present	
Scott Arnette	Board Attorney	Present	
Catherine D. LaPorta	Chief Financial Office	Present	

VI. **Resolutions:**

#2018-180 1. Resolution appointing John Johnson as Construction, Code Enforcement and Zoning Official

Council President Irace noted that the Finance Committee and Councilwoman Cooper interviewed Mr. Johnson. He is a resident of Oceanport and will take on the responsibilities of Construction Official, Code Enforcement and Zoning Official.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Robert Proto, Councilman
SECONDER:	Stephen Solan, Councilman
AYES:	Cooper, Gallo, Irace, Proto, Solan
ABSENT:	Deerin

2. **#2018-181** Resolution appointing Donna Phelps as Borough Administrator

Council President Irace noted that Ms. Phelps previously handled all of the Borough's FEMA reimbursement, forgiveness of the CDL in the amount of \$1.3 million and receipt of \$6 million in grant money for the new Municipal Complex.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [4 TO 1]
MOVER:	Robert Proto, Councilman
SECONDER:	Joseph A. Irace, Council President
AYES:	Gallo, Irace, Proto, Solan
NAYS:	Cooper
ABSENT:	Deerin

3. **#2018-182** Resolution appointing Katie LaPorta as Finance Personnel Manager
Council President Irace noted that Ms. LaPorta began several years ago as an administrative assistant, worked her way up, received her CPA and has earned the responsibilities associated with running the Finance Department.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Robert Proto, Councilman
SECONDER:	Joseph A. Irace, Council President
AYES:	Cooper, Gallo, Irace, Proto, Solan
ABSENT:	Deerin

4. **#2018-183** Resolution amending the 2018 Salary Resolution

Ms. Smith advised that there was a typographical error in the original agenda posted on the Borough's website for Ms. LaPorta's salary, which has since been corrected. Council President Irace also noted that Ms. Smith will now head the Clerk's Office. He stated that Ms. Phelps, Ms. LaPorta and Ms. Smith are the three best individuals to run a town and thanked them for pitching in to keep the Borough running through a difficult time.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [4 TO 1]
MOVER:	Robert Proto, Councilman
SECONDER:	Joseph A. Irace, Council President
AYES:	Gallo, Irace, Proto, Solan
NAYS:	Cooper
ABSENT:	Deerin

VII. Executive Session:

At 7:19 pm, the Council President asked for a motion to approve **Resolution #2018-184**, authorizing Council to enter Executive Session.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Robert Proto, Councilman
SECONDER:	Stephen Solan, Councilman
AYES:	Cooper, Gallo, Irace, Proto, Solan
ABSENT:	Deerin

At 8:30 PM, Council returned from Executive Session and the regular meeting was re-opened on a motion by Councilman Proto, seconded by Councilman Gallo and approved by Council.

VIII. **Petitions from the Public:** Council President Irace opened the meeting for petitions from the public.

Stuart Briskey, 56 Werah Place, asked if there were job descriptions for the new positions and asked if they could be posted on the Borough website. Ms. Smith advised the job descriptions were

available through records request. Mr. Briskey reiterated his request for every job description and every contract to be included on the Internet. He asked if any of the new positions had contracts, and Council President Irace replied they did not. Mr. Briskey asked if the new Construction/Code/Zoning Official was receiving a pension plan and health care, and Council President Irace replied he was. There was discussion regarding Mr. Briskey's activity while he was an active Councilman. Mr. Briskey's requested a flag to be installed at the Police Dept. and asked why the Borough no longer flies the POW/MIA flag. Council President Irace did not know why. Mr. Briskey asked what protocol the Borough follows for lowering the flag to half-mast. Council President Irace replied that it was based on the orders of the Governor. Mayor Coffey confirmed that the Borough follows the Governor's order.

Jeff Oakes, 60 Pemberton Ave, asked who was running this meeting and who ran the last meeting. Council President Irace replied that he ran both. Mr. Oakes expressed his concern that during the last meeting, a friend of his from Brick was stopped, interrupted and stopped by the Borough Attorney, which he believed to be unethical. Council President Irace disagreed. He believes that individual was being repetitive, disruptive and rude. Mr. Arnette replied that he didn't find it offensive, he is an advocate of free speech. The gentleman had repeated himself 3 or 4 times, and Mr. Arnette reminded him to move on. Mr. Oakes stated he was grateful that Oceanport did not have a time limit on public petitions, but stated that it becomes problematic when someone on the dais believes that someone's presentation should be shorter. Mr. Oakes reminded Council that his family continues to be threatened and does not feel safe. He has been harassed because of his use of medical cannabis.

Mark Patterson, 40 Itaska Place, congratulated Councilmen Deerin and O'Brien and thanked Councilwoman Cooper for her service to the Borough and wished her luck in her next endeavor. Mr. Patterson asked who was responsible for addressing problems reported on the Borough's "Report a Concern" feature. Council President Irace replied that the new Construction/Code/Zoning Officer, Mr. Johnson, will be responsible after coming on board. Currently, the concerns are being reported to Ms. Phelps and Ms. Smith, who are referring them to the appropriate department. Ms. Phelps spoke with Public Works regarding the tree concern that Mr. Patterson had reported. They confirmed the tree was on the Borough's property, and Ms. Phelps will get a quote for removal. Mr. Patterson asked about the termination of the former Borough Administrator and noted that Council President Irace had stated that resumes had been received for BA candidates. Ms. Smith provided clarification regarding the resolution/contract expiration. Council President Irace stated that the borough had, in fact, requested resumes before the contract expiration.

Jeff Oakes, 60 Pemberton Ave., asked if there were any plans for improving the safety around the community, particularly crosswalks by Borough Hall. He discussed photos he posted on his Facebook page regarding Drug Free School Zones and his discussions with Freeholder Tom Arnone regarding drug awareness grant money. He requested that Council renew conversations with the County to purse drug awareness grant money.

As no one else from the public wished to be heard, Council President Irace closed that portion of the meeting.

IX. Adjournment: As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m. on a motion by Councilman Proto which was seconded by Councilman Gallo and approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Smith
BOROUGH CLERK