



BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT

MAYOR & COUNCIL

MINUTES • NOVEMBER 4, 2021

Workshop

Clement V. Sommers Municipal Building

7:00 PM

910 Oceanport Way, Oceanport, NJ 07757

- I. **Meeting Called to Order:** Mayor Coffey called the meeting to order at 7:02 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 June 29, 2021 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:** Mayor Coffey led attendees and members of Council in the flag salute.

Mayor Coffey on behalf of everyone said hello to Councilman Deerin who was home recovering from trip to the hospital.

IV. Roll Call:

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Jay Coffey	Mayor	Present	
William Deerin	Councilman	Absent	
Richard Gallo	Councilman	Present	
Bryan Keeshen	Councilman	Present	
Michael O'Brien	Councilman	Present	
Thomas Tvrdik	Councilman	Present	
Meghan Walker	Councilwoman	Present	
Jeanne Smith	Borough Clerk	Present	
Scott Arnette	Board Attorney	Present	
Donna M. Phelps	Borough Administrator	Present	
Catherine D. LaPorta	Chief Financial Officer	Present	

- V. **Administrator's Report:** Ms. Phelps reported on items including submission of Best Practices, grant reimbursement for the fish kill expenses; completion of compliance reporting for PERC and commented on the overkill of documentation required for that and other agencies; the CFO is unable to certify funds for the Shore Transportation agreement so that item will be rescheduled for a meeting next year and recommended that the agreement from the past be including with the new form presented; reported that the Borough will receive from the MEL JIF a dividend for \$16,076 up from last years \$14,658; announced DEP notice regarding businesses only permitted to provide single use plastic straws upon request and reminds that the ban on single use plastic carry out bags and polystyrene foam products becomes effective in May 2022; the County has advised that they will be installing signage and striping at the intersection of Branchport and Port Au Peck Avenues next week which includes striping of an arrow, and only pavement markings in the Branchport left lane, additional pavement markings to delineate that lane, addition of a left lane must turn left sign, crosswalk pavement markings upgraded to cross hatch, crosswalks to enhance visibility, passing zone on the southbound Branchport approach to the intersection, will be converted to a no passing zone for a distance of 200 feet in advance of the intersection and the shoulder on the east side of Port Au Peck Avenue will be cross hatch to prevent vehicles from passing on the right and further delineate the no parking zone, school crossing signs will also be added on each approach; working with CFO to implement a new software for tracking of employee time off – Primepoint comes highly recommended which also has a payroll function – looking to implement in January and will need a resolution for December meeting.
- VI. **Clerk's Report:** Ms. Smith thanked Oceanport residents that served as poll workers for the General Election and acknowledged that the challenges that day were due to Statewide changes in equipment and urged the County to provide additional training; reported receipt of By-Law amendments from the First Aid Squad – redefines definition of active member and adjusted terms of Captain and on file for inspection; thanked administrative assistant Kim Parent for her invaluable assistance in completing 205 OPRA requests to date and reviewed the regular meeting items with no questions, corrections or objections.
- VII. **Discussion Items:**
1. Resolution appointing an Administrative Assistant for the Court Office – Ms. Phelps reported that the Court Administrator completed interviews and has made a recommendation for Ann Tilly to be appointed.
 2. BID Results for Community Center Park Improvements – Ms. Smith advised of a correction made by the Engineer to the total of the bid due to a calculation error; increases the contract by about \$3,000, resolution has been amended to reflect same. As there were no objections from Council, the resolution as amended was accepted for the regular meeting.

3. Resolution rejecting bids for Old Wharf House Renovations – Ms. Phelps announced one bid had been received and came in over the budget appropriated for the project and the recommendation is to reject the bid. She is discussing with DPW Superintendent what can be handled in-house and Construction Official has offered his services to provide direction to the DPW employees. While its important to get the Seniors back in their home, in light of supply and demand increases in prices right now, she believes they need to be creative to move the forward with the project and next year go out to bid for items such as ADA restrooms.
4. Ordinance for Electrical Vehicles – Mayor Coffey spoke to the State mandate requiring ready parking spaces for electrical vehicles which must be provided for by municipalities. Due to only 1 meeting left this year, ordinance will be considered in January.
5. Telecommunication Installations - Environmental Advisory Committee – Councilwoman Walker advised that the member from the Committee was not present and asked Ms. Smith to outline the request. Ms. Smith advised that it appears by the request that the Committee desires for the governing body to develop its own regulations to supplement the State regulations concerning 5G networks in the Borough's right of ways; it likely would entail the Borough Planner looking at the ordinance evaluating that which could be budgeted for the new year. Councilwoman Walker will discuss further with them.
6. Proposed Ordinance Establishing an Environmental Commission, Councilwoman Walker – Councilwoman Walker asked for any questions or concerns. Councilman Gallo asked if she had discussed with the Committee willingness to follow the ordinance which she did bring to them and they are absolutely willing to abide by the regulations. Mayor Coffey added this was for an introduction of the ordinance and provide a public hearing for comments. Councilman Gallo asked about the language that permits them to purchase open space. Ms. Smith commented that that is the statute language but would have to be budgeted by the governing body. Councilwoman Walker advised that in all the years it was a Commission they never exercised that power.

VIII. Mayor's Report: Mayor Coffey reported that the Barker's Circle site has been sold by FMERA to Trip Brooks for \$4.85 million which will include 75 residential rental units, high end, convert 1 of 5 buildings to office space and the firehouse to a restaurant with a State concessionaire license. Remaining areas for redevelopment are the Nurses Quarters, 400 area and McAfee Center.

IX. Petitions from the Public: Mayor Coffey opened the meeting to petitions from the public.

Kari Martin, 34 Hedge Drive, serves on the Water Watch Committee and commented on the ordinance for the Environmental Commission and thanked Councilwoman Walker for making it a priority; urged the adoption of the ordinance; there are many purposes for a commission having worked with them in her professional life with Clean Ocean Action. She further commented that it said something to the volunteers when the name of their organization is changed to a committee and show maybe that they're not that important. There's something to be said about the volunteers and their work and are there to advise and guide the Council on many environmental regulations and concerns as it relates to the county and state. She added that town environmental commissions are eligible for funding opportunities such as through ANJEC.

Tom Cox, 18 Hunters, commented that the changing of the name to a committee was more a symbol to the volunteers that they don't care about them so much and not just about water watch and environmental but all the other volunteers who should be valued and urged the Council to pass the ordinance and show respect for what volunteers do.

Matthew Zieniewicz, 1215 Turf Drive, requested that they consider in the future holding Veteran's Day to the World War II Memorial on the north side of Greeley field as a better location than just outside of borough hall. Mayor Coffey advised that the area was not the Borough's but still owned by FMERA. Mr. Zieniewicz also asked why there was no flag flying at the front of the Fort by Russel Hall. Mayor Coffey advised that it was Cowan Park and was under the jurisdiction of FMERA – he will look into why the flag is not there.

Rosanne Letson, 50 Deerpath Court, Tinton Falls, thanked everyone that attended the Gala sponsored by the Historical Committee, everyone had a really good time, and a suggestion by guests was made to consider holding a New Year's Eve party every year there for Oceanport and asked them to think about it. She would be happy to serve with any committee. Also, they are working on getting the event photos out to the public – to follow on the Historical Committee's Facebook page.

As no one else from the public appeared, Mayor Coffey closed that portion of the meeting.

X. Adjournment: As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:39 PM on a motion by Council President O'Brien, seconded by Councilman Keeshen and approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Smith
BOROUGH CLERK