

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Oceanport, New Jersey
September 4, 2008

The Regular Meeting of the Oceanport Mayor and Council was called to order on September 4, 2008 at 8:05 P.M. with Mayor Mahon stating the meeting had been properly advertised in accordance with the law.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilpersons Briscione, Gallo, Ibex, Kahle, Irace and Mayor Mahon

MEMBERS ABSENT: Councilperson Johnson

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Borough Clerk, Kimberly A. Jungfer and Borough Attorney, John O. Bennett, III

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Mahon led the audience and members of the Council in the flag salute.

Mayor Mahon stated for the record that Councilman Johnson had advised previously that he would be unable to attend that evening.

Mayor Mahon explained the next item on the agenda which was a public hearing on a Monmouth County Municipal Grant Program application for renovations to Charles Park by the Parks and Recreation Committee.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Dave LaPorta, Chairman of the Recreation Committee, explained why they were present that evening, and introduced Jeff Bottger of T&M Associates, also a resident and member of the Parks & Recreation Committee who would be making the presentation.

Jeff Bottger gave an extensive presentation of a concept design to renovate Charles Park that would be used to apply for a grant from the Monmouth County Municipal Grant Program. Mr. Bottger described the concept design including the target age group, types of areas, materials, landscaping and equipment proposed for the park. Mr. Bottger also discussed the costs and possible sources for funding of the project.

Councilman Briscione asked if the Borough applied last year. Mr. Bottger answered yes and it was not successful and described the response received by the County regarding the denial. Councilman Briscione asked if it was the same application. Mr. Bottger responded similar and described the differences. Councilman Briscione stated that this was one of those costs versus quality of life issues and that is important that it be certain that the Borough has the capacity to maintain the parks in the future so that at budget time other budgets aren't cut in order to maintain the parks. Mr. Bottger stated that the surfaces being proposed would not require yearly maintenance. Councilman Briscione asked the Clerk how the Borough would pay for the plan. Ms. Jungfer explained the possible options for funding or financing.

Councilman Gallo stated his questions had been addressed during his attendance at Recreation Committee meetings but extended his thanks to Mr. Bottger for his presentation and the Rec Committee for the job that they are doing.

Councilman Ibex stated that his questions had been answered and extended his thanks as well.

Councilwoman Kahle stated that the presentation was very well done and extended her thanks for their work and asked how they knew what residents wanted in the park. Sheri Amador, member of Parks and Recreation Committee, responded and explained why they decided to target children ages 2 to 5.

Councilman Irace extended his thanks and stated that it was a quality of life issue and he was pleased that Council had and would continue to find the mechanisms to keep and maintain the Borough's parks.

Mayor Mahon stated that the Council adopted earlier this year to segregate the Open Space funding for maintenance, improvements, etc. and wanted to know if that information would be part of the application along with the feasibility study. Mr. Bottger responded that he thought that was a good idea and Jim Foligno, Recreation Coordinator stated it would be. Mayor Mahon continued that they had done that in response to the County's comments from last year.

PUBLIC:

Clarence Brocklebank, 40 Sagamore Avenue, stated he was a long time resident and that he liked the plan but wanted to know if there would be restroom facilities. Mr. Bottger answered no, for a number of reasons, but primarily costs and gave examples. Mr. Brocklebank also commented on the problems with port a johns at Community Center.

Mike Kruget, 431 Milton Ave., thanked the Mayor and Council for attention to recreation and the parks and commented on what he thought were the positive aspects of the plan, however, expressed concerns about the process including no opportunity for residents to input initially, materials for the pathway, and the proposal to remove the willow trees and problems with that and asked that they consider other options as alternatives to removing the trees. Mr. LaPorta added that they do not want to remove the trees and will be looking at during the actual implementation stage of the project. There was additional discussion about the surface materials to be used.

Linda Tier, 10 Allenhurst Ave., thanked everyone for their work and stated she was the one who surveyed the neighborhood last year for what was wanted and for this year she would like the basketball court to remain for kids in the neighborhood that are older and a pathway that has a surface to accommodate bicycles, strollers and won't become muddy and expressed her comments on the improvements.

Beth Brownell, 250 Monmouth Blvd., stated she was there to fight for the trees to remain and to keep the basketball court as a resident in the neighborhood with a 12 year old and thanked everyone for working on the project but would like them to reconsider her suggestions.

Tara O'Sullivan, 452 Myrtle Ave., stated she and her kids use the park regularly and they love the proposed plans but she wants the willow trees to remain especially for the shade. She also asked that they consider having benches that face the playground area so that parents can watch their children.

As no one else from the public wished to be heard Mayor Mahon closed the public portion of the meeting on a motion by Councilman Ibex which was seconded by Councilwoman Kahle and approved by Council.

Mayor Mahon asked for a motion to authorize the submission of the application as presented by the Parks and Recreation Committee for submittal to the Monmouth County Municipal Grant Program for renovations to Charles Park which was moved by Councilman Briscione and seconded by Councilwoman Kahle and approved by Council.

Mayor Mahon stated that the next item on the Agenda was the presentation of the Parks Feasibility Study by the Parks and Recreation Committee.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Jeff Bottger, gave a synopsis of the Parks Feasibility Study that was prepared by T&M Associates which included an inspection of all the Borough's parks and concept design plans that were prepared for each park.

Councilwoman Kahle stated that she reviewed the plan and that she thought it was well done and a long time coming as a number of the Borough's parks are in a state of disrepair and extended her thanks.

Councilman Briscione commended the presentation and the work done by the Recreation Department and asked for clarification on what Council would be approving which Mayor Mahon advised would be the framework of the Park Plan.

Mayor Mahon thanked Mr. Bottger for his presentation.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Resolution authorizing the payment of bills. **R-08-127**
2. Resolution awarding the 2008 Road Program. **R-08-128**
3. Resolution, Dedication by Rider for Bequests and Gifts to the Police Department. **R-08-129**
4. Resolution, Dedication by Rider for Bequests and Gifts from the Strawberry Festival. **R-08-130**
5. Resolution accepting the Long Range Capital Plan for Borough Park **R-08-131**
6. Raffle application, Family Promise of Monmouth County, Off Premise 50/50.
7. Approval of the Workshop minutes of August 21, 2008.

Mayor Mahon stated that Item 7 would be taken separately. Councilman Ibex moved to approve the remaining items on the Consent Agenda, which was seconded by Councilwoman Kahle and approved by the Council.

The Clerk asked for a motion on Item #7. Councilwoman Kahle moved to approve Item #7, which was seconded by Councilman Gallo and approved by Council with the exception of Councilpersons Briscione, Ibex and Irace who abstained.

CLERK'S REPORT: No report

COMMITTEES:

COUNCILMAN BRISCIONE: Councilman Briscione extended congratulations to Judge Cavanaugh's Over 40 Softball team which won the League Championship. Councilman Briscione reported that Public Works has arranged for the finished compost to be removed at no cost which was done as a result from pressure by DEP to have it removed before the fall leaf pickup. He reported that all the crosswalks and curbs in the school zones have been repainted and that branches have been cleared at the intersections where signage was blocked. He also reported that the main roads have been cleaned in accordance with Stormwater regulations and that Public Works has rebuilt about 25 catch basins. He also reported on the sale of a tractor that was underutilized, sold to Wall Township for \$34,000 and will be replaced by a tractor being purchased for \$30,488 for a positive return and acknowledged the Mayor for his assistance with the transactions. Councilman Briscione reported that Public Works has been doing the lawn maintenance at the schools since July and the Board of Education is pleased.

Councilman Briscione commented that the vote by FMERPA for the Ft. Monmouth Plan took place the night before and stated that he appreciated Mayor Mahon and Mayor McCleary of Tinton Falls for their convictions and their no vote, however, the Borough must deal now with a plan that in his opinion that will eventually place a financial burden on the taxpayers of Oceanport. He also commented on the upcoming implementation plan and urged that Mayor and Council stay involved during that critical phase.

COUNCILMAN GALLO: Councilman Gallo advised that this weekend would be Summer's End and because the weather is not looking good, the rain date is for Sunday. Mayor Mahon stated he believed that Mr. LaPorta had recommended it be moved to Sunday. Mr. LaPorta stated that they would be making a decision after the weather report was updated the next day.

Councilman Gallo also reminded everyone that the fundraiser for the Kortney Rose Foundation was scheduled for the upcoming Sunday as well and if anyone is interested it was being held at Monmouth Park Racetrack at 10 a.m.

COUNCILMAN IBEX: Councilman Ibex stated he had no report.

COUNCILWOMAN KAHLE: Councilwoman Kahle thanked the Mayor for voting no at the FMERPA meeting and for his time and effort on behalf of Oceanport and provided her comments on the plan and its process and urged that the Mayor and Council will need to stay involved during the upcoming phases of the plan's implementation and that she also looked forward to upcoming discussions to evaluate the pros and cons of de-annexation as they move forward.

Councilwoman Kahle reported on Monmouth Park and follow up discussions with John Duffy and reported on a change in their Engineer contractor, plans for improvements over the winter with priority on improvements to areas that impact the waterways, and a trial program with TRWRA to take 100,000 extra gallons on wet or dry days. She stated that they are still in talks with the Long Branch sewerage authority and hope to have an agreement in place by the start of the new season.

Councilwoman Kahle also thanked everyone for their support of Operation Oceanport and that packages had been sent out to each of the Borough's servicemen.

COUNCILMAN IRACE:

Councilman Irace called for the introduction of the **Code Adoption Ordinance** and asked the Clerk to read the Ordinance by title only, after which Councilman Briscione moved to approve the Ordinance upon first reading, which was seconded by Councilwoman Kahle.

The Clerk called roll:

AYES: Briscione, Gallo, Ibex, Kahle, Irace
NAYES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Johnson

Councilman Irace asked for a motion to hold the public hearing on the proposed ordinance at the Council meeting of September 18, 2008 and to advertise same in accordance with the law and was seconded by Councilwoman Ibex.

The Clerk called roll:

AYES: Briscione, Gallo, Ibex, Kahle, Irace
NAYES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Johnson

Councilman Irace made comments regarding the FMERPA process, commended the Mayor, Borough Attorney, Borough Clerk, Council and dedicated residents for their participation on behalf of Oceanport and urged everyone that the FMERPA vote the night before was not the end but just the beginning and that each one involved needed to remain dedicated to seeing the best for Oceanport during the next phases of the Fort's redevelopment.

MAYOR MAHON: Mayor Mahon made comments concerning the journey and process with FMERPA and the Fort Monmouth Plan issue and extended thanks to those who assisted him and the Borough throughout.

PUBLIC:

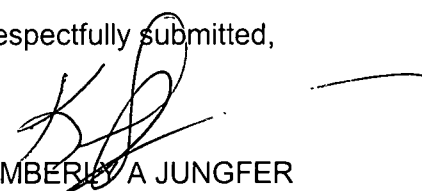
The Mayor then opened the meeting for anyone from the public who wished to be heard.

As no one from the public wished to be heard Mayor Mahon closed the public portion of the meeting which was moved by Councilman Ibex and seconded by Councilman Gallo.

Bill List: Ad Hoc Trust \$876.00. Capital Trust \$347,923.77. Fireworks Trust \$8,732.16. Off Duty Police Trust \$1,320.00. Open Space Trust \$2,315.00. Recreation Trust \$1,962.00. 2007 Vouchers Paid \$161,234.00. 2007 Vouchers Paid this Meeting \$1,700.00. Total 2007 Vouchers Paid \$162,934.00. 2008 Vouchers Paid \$13,681,640.93. 2008 Vouchers Paid this Meeting \$1,036,980.37. Total 2008 Vouchers Paid \$14,718,621.30.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m. on a motion from Councilman Ibex, seconded by Councilman Irace and approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,



KIMBERLY A JUNGFER
BOROUGH CLERK