



BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT

MAYOR & COUNCIL

MINUTES • JUNE 25, 2020

Special Meeting

Maple Place School

7:00 PM

2 Maple Place, Oceanport, NJ 07757

I. Call to Order: Mayor Coffey called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Statement of Compliance with Open Public Meetings Act: This meeting further complies with the Open Public Meetings Act by notification on June 3, 2020 of this virtual/remote meeting, its location, date and time to the Asbury Park Press and the LINK News and by the posting of same on the municipal bulletin board and Borough Web Site.

Mayor Coffey then read the virtual/remote meeting advisory advising the public how to attend and participate during public portions of the meeting.

III. Flag Salute: Mayor Coffey led attendees and the Borough 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	
William Deerin	Councilman	Remote	
Richard Gallo	Councilman	Remote	
Bryan Keeshen	Councilman	Remote	
Michael O'Brien	Councilman	Remote	
Thomas Tvrdik	Councilman	Remote	
Meghan Walker	Councilwoman	Remote	
Jeanne Smith	Borough Clerk	Remote	
Donna M. Phelps	Borough Administrator	Remote	
Scott Arnette	Board Attorney	Remote	
Catherine D. LaPorta	Chief Financial Officer	Remote	

VI. Municipal Budget:

1. PUBLIC HEARING on the 2020 Municipal Budget

Municipal Budget as Introduced May 21, 2020, Publication in the Asbury Park Press May 28, 2020 and posting on Borough Website. A copy was not filed with the Oceanport/Monmouth County Library which remain closed during the coronavirus emergency.

Mayor Coffey asked Councilman O'Brien, Chair of the Finance Committee, to provide a brief summary prior to opening the hearing to the public.

Councilman O'Brien advised that they had not made too many changes to the prior year's budget and were fairly conservative and began by seeking input from all department heads and from there put together a budget that the Finance Committee agreed addresses the issues that were needed to be addressed as a borough but remained conservative.

Mayor Coffey commented for those following along at home, the finance committee which is comprised of Councilman O'Brien, Keeshen and Tvrdik, met with respective department heads and the administrative officers of the different organizations that serve Oceanport and in

conjunction with the Chief Financial Officer, Katie LaPorta, developed the body of the budget, “the meat and potatoes” of the budget, a lot of which was based upon what was prepared last year and based upon the input facilitated a budget that the committee feels addresses the borough’s needs which Councilman O’Brien affirmed correct.

Mayor Coffey stated the budget has been posted for about a month and was not aware of any comments from anybody and asked the Council if they had any questions or comments to which there were none. Coouncilman O’Brien commented that he had not received any questions, neither had Ms. LaPorta.

Mayor Coffey furthered that the municipality only had control over the municipal portion of the budget, not the school or county portions nor what the state would do or not do this year. It remains uncertain when the state will produce a budget and thus the necessity to send out estimated bills in June that caused a lot of consternation with people who didn’t understand what it was, why it was necessary by statute for the Tax Collector to send out. The 4th quarter tax bill will reconcile everything once State issues its figures so that actual dollars being spent for 2020 will be known by the 4th quarter due date

Mayor Coffey then recognized CFO Ms. LaPorta who provided additional details on the budget process including increases due to the sanitation contract which had been out for bid for renewal that year, collection fees and recycling fees and tipping fees; police pension costs and statutory salary increases; some of the increases were able to be offset by decreases in certain departments and the Borough was also able to anticipate more revenue at the top of the budget line item which resulted in a net tax increase of about \$283,000 which anticipates the average home in Oceanport of an increase of about \$30 per year for the municipal portion of the budget.

Mayor Coffey opined further on the budget process, the municipalities obligation to collect for schools and county budgets, and that unless the borough is willing to look at big ticket items such as personnel, garbage or schools, there wasn’t a way to see any substantial savings. The fourth being commercial properties which were not going to be seeing the benefits of any for several years as they come in on the fort.

PUBLIC HEARING: Mayor Coffey opened the Public Hearing on the municipal budget and advised the public on how to submit their question or comment. Additional time provided due to the slow speed of the web that evening.

Jeffrey Oakes, 60 Pemberton Avenue, commented he was listening about tax revenue that could be generated through the fort and reminded them that cannabis would be on the State’s ballot this year and it was his opinion that somehow Fort Monmouth could have a commercial area that would alleviate some the revenue concerns.

Stuart Briskey, 46 Werah Place, asked 3 questions – how many vehicles were being purchased and was told 2 patrol vehicles were budgeted through the operating budget; how many speed radar signs being purchased and was told none by Mayor Coffey. Mr. Briskey advised he was told those would be bought two years ago – so the borough can afford a drone but not radar signs. Mayor Coffey responded that those are the choices made by the committee and by the council. The Borough can afford anything it wants if its willing to tax for it. Allocation of resources could be argued all day on what should be done versus other but is done depending on the most pressing need. Mr. Briskey asked about the \$300,000 radio system would allow all the police, fire, first aid, OEM, public works to speak to each other. Councilman Keeshen responded that the police department was on an encrypted frequency with the County which is

incapable of that currently, the haven't opened that up to the other departments. There was discussion concerning the problem of communications during emergency events and this was a good step towards that but until the County opens that up, the borough was limited. Mayor Coffey added that it wasn't only an Oceanport problem but statewide. Discussion further included the importance of being able to communicate with neighbor towns and that purchases would have been required even if the borough had kept its own dispatch.

Mr. Briskey then commented that 5 and even 10 years ago he asked that a synopsis of the budget be put in the bulletin and he'd like to go back to that. He was told there's not enough staff members to do it – a part time CFO. We now have a full-time CFO and a borough administrator that we didn't have before and we need to get that back in the bulletin and maybe they'd have 22 people at a budget meeting when they see what the numbers look like.

Mayor Coffey asked what summary was he looking for – Mr. Briskey advised he had provided it 3 years ago but could get it for him again from Buddy Brocklebank. Mayor Coffey commented that it doesn't always line up with the timelines for publishing. Mr. Briskey said then a summary and put it on the website. Mayor Coffey responded there were several friendly budget formats that could go on website but the bulletin was impractical due to time frames. Ms. LaPorta advised that if he would send her a copy of it she would put it together and ask Ms. Smith to get up on the website.

Councilman Tvrdik noted that for the upcoming year they would note the radar signs.

As there was no one else present to appear, Mayor Coffey closed the public hearing on a motion by Council President Gallo, seconded by Councilman Deerin and approved by the Council.

2. RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT - ADOPTION OF MUNICIPAL BUDGET 2020

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Michael O'Brien, Councilman
SECONDER:	Bryan Keeshen, Councilman
AYES:	Deerin, Gallo, Keeshen, O'Brien, Tvrdik, Walker

VII. Second Reading & Public Hearing Ordinances:

#1025 Ordinance Establishing a CAP Bank for CY2020

Councilman Tvrdik called for the 2nd reading and Public Hearing of an ordinance establishing a CAP Bank and asked the Clerk to read the affidavit of publication of the proposed ordinance by title only. **"AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY ESTABLISHING A CAP BANK FOR 2020 CALENDAR YEAR (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)"** was published one time in the Asbury Park Press on May 29, 2020.

PUBLIC HEARING: Mayor Coffey opened the meeting for public comment for this ordinance. As no one from the public wished to be heard, Mayor Coffey closed the public hearing on a motion by Councilwoman Walker, which was seconded by Councilman O'Brien and approved by Council.

Councilman Tvrdik made a motion to adopt the ordinance and advertise in accordance with law, which was seconded by Councilman Keeshen.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Thomas Tvrdik, Councilman
SECONDER:	Bryan Keeshen, Councilman
AYES:	Deerin, Gallo, Keeshen, O'Brien, Tvrdik, Walker

2. 2020 Capital Bond Ordinance

Councilman Tvrdik called for the 2nd reading and Public Hearing of an ordinance limiting use of single-use plastics and asked the Clerk to read the affidavit of publication of the proposed ordinance by title only. "**BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS 2020 GENERAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, BY AND IN THE BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING \$2,354,938 THEREFOR (INCLUDING A GRANT FROM THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$205,000) AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$2,051,554 BONDS OR NOTES TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF**" was published one time in the Asbury Park Press on May 29, 2020.

PUBLIC HEARING: Mayor Coffey opened the meeting for public comment for this ordinance. As no one from the public wished to be heard, Mayor Coffey closed the public hearing on a motion by Council President Gallo, which was seconded by Councilman Deerin and approved by Council.

Councilman Tvrdik made a motion to adopt the ordinance and advertise in accordance with law, which was seconded by Councilman O'Brien.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Thomas Tvrdik, Councilman
SECONDER:	Michael O'Brien, Councilman
AYES:	Deerin, Gallo, Keeshen, O'Brien, Tvrdik, Walker

VIII. Petitions from the Public: Mayor Coffey opened the meeting to petitions from the public. Public was advised to click button on "raise hand" to want to speak, email to publiccomments@oceanportboro.com or call the meeting line at 732.272.8337. As no one from the public presented, Mayor Coffey closed that portion of the meeting.

IX. Adjournment: As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 PM on a motion by Council President Gallo, seconded by Councilman Tvrdik and approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne Smith
BOROUGH CLERK