

The Agenda-Workshop Meeting of the Raritan Borough Council was called to order by Mayor Liptak at 7:00p.m. The meeting was held in the Meeting Room of the Raritan Borough Municipal Building at 22 First Street, Raritan, NJ 08869.

Mayor Liptak announced that the meeting was called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. Notices of this meeting were sent to The Courier News and the Star Ledger on March 3, 2014. In addition, copies of notices were posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building, on the Raritan Borough website and filed in the Office of the Borough Clerk. Notices on the bulletin board have remained continuously posted.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilwoman Carra, Councilwoman Gara, Councilman Giraldi, Councilman Lobell, Councilman Sibiliala, Council President Tozzi

Absent: XXX

Also Present: Mayor Liptak, Borough Attorney Wenner, Borough Engineer Schrek (left at 8:00p.m.), Borough Administrator Jaxel, Borough Clerk Schmitt

FLAG SALUTE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

Councilwoman Gara led the invocation and flag salute.

Mayor Liptak welcomed the new Borough Clerk Maggie Schmitt and wished her a long and successful tenure.

Mayor Liptak recognized the recent passing of former Councilman James Sibiliala. Mayor Liptak stated that Jim Sibiliala was a fabric of the community with an incredible sense of humor. The Mayor shared a few stories about Jim's life including the courting of his wife Mary Johnson, along with a humorous story about the two of them campaigning together. Mayor Liptak extended her deepest sympathies to the Sibiliala family.

PUBLIC COMMENT

James Foohey, Jr. of 710 Rhine Boulevard, Raritan, New Jersey stated one of the things he learned from Jim Sibiliala is that he valued friendships more than politics. He asked Council to consider this and to not let politics get in the way of their friendships. Mr. Foohey also stated that the anticipated parking problem on the opening day of fish season did not occur because the New Jersey Division of Fish and Game stocked the trout further downstream.

There being no more comments, Mayor Liptak closed public comment.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 2014-04-068 - Railroad Monthly Parking Refund

On motion by Councilwoman Gara, seconded by Council President Tozzi, it was moved to adopt Resolution 2014-04-068.

Recorded Vote on Resolution No. 2014-04-068

Aye: Carra, Gara, Giraldi, Lobell, Sibilia, Tozzi
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 6-0.

PURCHASE ORDER REQUESTS

None.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES

BOROUGH OF RARITAN - ORDINANCE 2014-02
CALENDAR YEAR 2014 - ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK -
(N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A:4-45.1 et. seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said final budget appropriations to 0.50 % unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous years final appropriations; and,

WHEREAS, a municipality may, by ordinance, bank the difference between its final budget appropriations and the 3.5% increase authorized by this ordinance when said difference is not appropriated as part of the final budget; and,

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Raritan, County of Somerset, hereby determines that this difference in the amount of \$231,384.39 that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to the final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED that any amount authorized herein above that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of

introduction; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

On motion by Councilwoman Gara, seconded by Councilwoman Cara, it was moved to introduce Ordinance 2014-02.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Carra, Gara, Giraldi, Lobell, Sibilialia, Tozzi
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 6-0.

Mayor Liptak state that this Ordinance would be considered for final passage after public hearing there on at a meeting of said Borough Council to be held in the Municipal Building on Tuesday, April 22, 2014 or at any time and place to which the meeting for the further consideration of the ordinance shall be adjourned.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CY 2014 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Borough Administrator Jaxel read the Municipal Budget Notice into record and stated that a Hearing on the Budget and Tax Resolution will be held at he Municipal Building, 22 First Street, Raritan, New Jersey on May 13, 2014 at 7:00p.m.

Council Comments

Councilman Lobell inquired if it would be possible to add \$2,000.00 to the computers/software line item for the Police Department.

Borough Administrator Jaxel explained that it would require an amendment to the budget and therefore, he does not advise action on this item at the present time. Mr. Jaxel recommended waiting until the end of the year to make this expenditure.

Councilwoman Gara requested postponing the introduction of the budget pending further discussion.

Discussion continued on the required submission time of the budget and the implications if the introduction were postponed.

Councilman Giraldi stated he did not wish to hold up the budget for \$2,000.00 and would like to go forward.

On motion by Councilman Lobell, seconded by Council President Tozzi, it was moved to introduce the CY 2014 Budget.

Recorded Vote: Aye: Carra, Giraldi, Lobell, Tozzi
Nay: XXX
Abstain: Gara, Sibilialia

Motion Carried 4-0-2.

DISCUSSION

1. Engineer's Report (SS)

Borough Engineer Schrek gave the following report:

Johnson Drive

Mr. Schrek has been in communication with a contractor, referred to him by the bonding company, who has inquired into the scope of work required to complete this project.

Sanitary Sewer Mapping

The Borough is currently in the process of consolidating past video inspection mapping and adding old mapping maintained by DPW. The end project will be a complete map of the Borough's sanitary sewer system.

Fifth Street Sidewalks

Plans are complete and letters will be sent to homeowners when the project is complete.

2012 Sewer Mapping

National Watermain is proceeding with completion of the project utilizing formed in place liners. The project is addressing required repairs discovered during video analysis of the pipes in the vicinity of Canal Street and the Zeus property. Work has been sporadic due to the heavy flow in the sewer. A larger capital investment may be necessary to reduce the extraneous flow.

Discussion continued on the water flow and its potential impact.

2014 CDBG Applications

An application was submitted on time, requesting funding for additional sidewalk work.

Orlando Drive, Phase 2

This project will commence the first week in May and should run approximately thirty days.

Tillman Street Improvements

Stonebridge under obligation, per the settlement agreement, has commenced work on Tillman Street. The work includes drainage improvements, new curb and sidewalk, roadway base repairs, milling and overlay.

NJ American Watermain Improvements

NJ American Watermain Company will be replacing piping on Colfax Street, Church Street, and Codington Street. The roads will be milled and resurfaced upon completion.

Councilman Lobel asked if the milling and resurfacing would be included in the thirty year plan. Borough Engineer Schrek stated that he will update the plan accordingly.

Councilwoman Carra inquired if the delay on Johnson Drive would affect the Borough's rating for future grants. Borough Engineer Schrek replied that is not a factor now; however it may be next year.

2. Special Meeting-Waterfront Development (ML)

Mayor Liptak stated that a Special Meeting should be convened to discuss the Riverfront Redevelopment. The Mayor stated that the Borough needs to move forward on this project and the appropriate boards and commissions need to come together. Mayor Liptak requested that a Special Meeting be convened between the Planning Board, the Environmental Commission, all interested boards and committees, and the local business owners on April 29, 2014 at 6:30p.m. in the Municipal Building Community Room on the lower level. Council was in consensus to hold the meeting.

Borough Attorney Wenner reviewed the Open Public Meetings Act with Council and the required noticing when governing bodies gather.

3. Swaminarayan Mandir Loyadham Temple Parade (ML)

Mayor Liptak informed Council that the Swaminarayan Mandir Loyadham Temple has been in contact with the Borough regarding an "Inauguration Ceremony Festival". The Mayor explained the purpose of the festival and reviewed with Council the date and time, route of the parade, and number of attendees.

Discussion continued on how the purposed parade time and number of attendees, could impact traffic congestion and affect the business owners along the route. There was Council consensus to invite representatives from the Temple to the next meeting on

April 22, 2014 at 6:30p.m. to discuss possible alternatives to the parade route and time.

4. Cable Company Solicitors (ML)

Mayor Liptak reviewed an email from a resident about unwarranted solicitation from a local cable company. The Mayor acknowledged the resident's concern but felt it was up to the resident to deter the solicitation.

5. 2014 Capital Budget (DJ)

Borough Administrator Jaxel informed Council that the Borough has a number of projects to be considered in the Capital Budget and he would like to review the list with Council at the May 13, 2014 meeting. There was Council consensus to convene at 6:30p.m. on May 13th to discuss the Capital Budget.

CORRESPONDENCE

Councilwoman Gara announced that the Raritan Borough Environmental Commission will be holding an Earth Day Celebration on Sunday, April 27, 2014 at 11:00a.m. to clean up along the river. There will be many volunteers including the local Brownie and the Girl Scout troops.

Mayor Liptak announced that the Borough Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, April 12, 2014 with a rain date of April 19, 2014 in Frelinghuysen Park at 11:00a.m.

Mayor Liptak also updated Council on a few interesting proposal brought up at the last New Jersey League of Municipalities Mayor's meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Richard Yadowski of 267 Weiss Terrace, Raritan, New Jersey requested that Council work diligently on the parade route with the members of the Temple. He also inquired about the budget process and asked questions regarding procedure and amendments. Mr. Yadowski questioned if an eleven percent salary increase was included in the budget for Daniel LaVerde. Mayor Liptak responded that an increase was noted in a line item. Councilman Lobell said that the increase may have been budgeted but to date it has not been approved. Discussion continued on Mr. LaVerde's proposed salary increase to which Mr. Weiss stated he was severely opposed.

Thomas Brown of 18 Elmer Street, Raritan, New Jersey stated that the Temple Parade will be bringing 400-500 people to town in

approximately ten buses and this could create a severe parking issue.

Victor Laggini of 1025 Tysley Place, Raritan, New Jersey inquired about the recent court ruling in the Gannet lawsuit which requires a large deposit of funds. He asked where the money will be coming from and what effect it would have on property taxes. Borough Attorney Wenner advised him that the current ruling is being appealed.

Nicholas Tozzi of 96 Vones Lane, Raritan, New Jersey stated that everyone seems to be condemning Daniel LaVerde and he feels he deserves a round of applause not criticism.

Adele Goetsch of 6 Nevius Street, Raritan, New Jersey stated that she agrees with Mr. Tozzi that Daniel LaVerde gets beat up. Ms. Goetsch inquired if calendars would be available. Councilwoman Gara replied that they may be ready sometime in May.

Mayor Liptak commented on an editorial that was in the Sunday Courier News by columnist Jay Jefferson Cooke. Mayor Liptak stated that Mr. Cooke does not understand the Borough form of government and the powers of the Mayor. Mayor Liptak outlined a response to Mr. Cooke.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution 2014-04-069 - Executive Session - Subject Matter: Personnel-Public Works, Litigation-Gannett, Contract Grievance-Police.

On motion by Councilwoman Gara, seconded by Council President Tozzi, it was moved to adopt Resolution 2014-04-069.

Recorded Vote on Resolution No. 2014-04-069

Aye: Carra, Gara, Giraldi, Lobell, Sibilialia, Tozzi
Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 6-0.

Council convened in Executive Session at 8:07p.m.

On motion by Councilwoman Gara, seconded by Council President Tozzi, it was moved to come out of Executive Session.

Recorded Vote: AYE: All Ayes.
NAY: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 6-0.

Council resumed in open session at 9:04p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion by Council President Tozzi, seconded by Councilman Lobell, it was moved to adjourn the meeting.

Recorded Vote: AYE: All Ayes.
NAY: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 6-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05p.m.

Respectively Submitted,

Marguerite Schmitt, RMC
Borough Clerk

Approved: _____