

The Agenda-Workshop Meeting of the Raritan Borough Council was called to order by Mayor Liptak at 6:30p.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 January 6, 2015. 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, Councilman Foohy,
Councilwoman Gara, Councilman Giraldi, Council
President Lobell, Councilman Sibilgia

Absent: XXX

Also Present: Mayor Liptak, Borough Attorney Wenner, Borough
Engineer Schrek (arrived 7:00p.m.), Borough
Administrator Jaxel, Borough Clerk Schmitt,
Police Chief McCormick

FLAG SALUTE AND INVOCATION

Councilwoman Carra led the invocation and flag salute.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Resolution No. 2015-01-22 - Executive Session - Subject Matter:
Recreation personnel; Public Works Personnel; Public Works
Contract Negotiations; Litigation; Attorney-Client Privilege

On motion by Councilwoman Gara, seconded by Council President Lobell, it was moved to approve Resolution No. 2015-01-22.

Recorded Vote on Resolution No. 2015-01-22:

Aye: Carra, Foohy, Gara, Giraldi, Lobell, Sibilgia

Nay: XXX

Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 6-0.

Council convened in Executive Session at 6:32p.m.

On motion by Councilwoman Gara, seconded by Councilman Foohy, it was moved to come out of Executive Session and revisit the remaining subject matter at the end of the meeting.

Recorded Vote: AYE: All Ayes.

NAY: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 6-0.

Council resumed in open session at 7:00p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

WORK SESSION

1. Engineer's Report (SS)

Borough Engineer Schrek gave the following report:

Orlando Drive, Phase 3

Proceeding with design. Field survey work has been completed. Expect to bid the project in March.

Tillman Street Improvements

Tillman Street improvements have been completed, as an off-tract improvement, by the developer of Stonebridge. The improvements included additional drainage, MS4 compliant inlets, new and replaced sidewalks, ADA compliant sidewalk ramps, milling, base repair and resurfacing. The project, including inspection, was completed at no cost to the Borough.

Access to the back gate of the development has increased traffic on Tillman Street. It has been suggested that stop signs be placed at the streets intersecting this through street. We concur with this suggestion. The intersections are Gaston Ave., Quick Ave. (2 required) and Raritan Ave. Per our Ordinance Section 82-11, the stop intersections shall be designated by Resolution. Stop signs will be place in compliance with the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

Victoria Street Sidewalks

A CDBG, in the amount of \$98,405, is in place for side improvements on Victoria Street extending from Frelinghuysen Ave. to Railroad Ave. The County has authorized commencement of work. We are proceeding with field work as weather permits. We expect to bid the project in March.

Borough Engineer Schrek also reported that the radar speed limit signs on Woodmere Street are not working and repairs are the Borough's responsibility. In addition, Somerset County will provide the Borough with two more speed limit signs.

2. Indigent Fund (ML)

Mayor Liptak stated that she has been approached by a local Funeral Director about an indigent fund for residents. Councilwoman Gara explained that it has been requested that this fund be subsidized with \$2,500.00 annually and allocated for necessary funeral expenses. Councilmembers had various questions about how this fund would be utilized and who would make the determination on how the funds were allocated. Councilwoman Gara stated that she would request that the Funeral Director attend the February Workshop to explain the process.

3. Information Card (ML)

Mayor Liptak reviewed an information sheet that other towns provide for their residents which contains pertinent town related information. Mayor Liptak proposed that the Borough consider providing residents with a similar type of information card, possibly on a refrigerator magnet. Mayor Liptak requested that Councilman Foohey work on this project.

4. Borough Website (SG)

Councilwoman Gara stated that information on the Borough website is not up to date and requested that the website be reviewed for accuracy. Borough Clerk Schmitt explained that she has been working on updating the Board and Committee rosters and if there were other items that need updating, to please bring it to her attention. Councilwoman Gara stated that she would work with the Borough Clerk to update the information on the website.

5. 2015 Municipal Budget Department Head Meeting (DJ)

Borough Administrator Jaxel discussed the Municipal Budget Department Head meeting schedule with Council and suggested meeting on Tuesday, January 20th. After a brief discussion, there was agreement to meet on Tuesday, January 20th at 6:00p.m.

6. Tree Trimming - 22 West Somerset Street (DJ)

Mayor Liptak stated that the tree at 22 West Somerset Street is encroaching on the electrical and telephone wires and needs to be trimmed back. Borough Administrator Jaxel said he would work on this item.

7. Televising Council Meetings (JF)

Councilman Foohey stated that he has been doing some research on the possibility of televising Council Meetings and explained what would be involved to implement this process and the equipment required. Mr. Foohey also gave his thoughts on

the advantages to televising Council Meetings and requested Council approval to pursue this process further. A brief discussion ensued with Council giving their opinions and views on the potential cost and impact of televising. After some discussion Council agreed to allow Mr. Foohey to gather more in-depth information on this topic.

8. Reorganization (PG)

Councilman Giraldi stated that he has conducted some research and found that Somerset County and other municipalities in the area are holding their Annual Reorganization Meeting during the week. He requested that Council consider changing future Borough Reorganization Meetings to a weekday between 3:00p.m. and 5:00p.m., instead of the current Sunday afternoon.

9. Committee Assignments (PG)

Councilman Giraldi voiced his opinion to certain 2015 Council Standing Committee and Liaison Assignments. Mr. Giraldi also expressed a concern that the current Council President does not communicate effectively with other Councilmembers, and the effect this could have in the absence of the Mayor.

Mayor Liptak stated that everyone has an opinion; however, it is the Mayor's prerogative to designate Council assignments. Mayor Liptak also stated that Council held a pre-reorganization meeting and there were no other nominations for Council President.

Discussion ensued on Council President Lobell's lack of email communication and Councilwoman Gara defended her current Committee and Liaison assignments. After additional statements and remarks, Mayor Liptak stated that this topic has progressed to a personal level and must come to an end.

10. Police Communication (DC)

Councilwoman Carra asked if there was any way that Council could be informed when important Police situations occur in town. Chief McCormick commented that he informs the Mayor and Council liaison when serious events occur. Councilwoman Gara stated that if she receives important information from the Police Department she will inform the Councilmembers.

11. Speeding (DC)

Councilwoman Carra stated that while campaigning last year, she received requests from residents for speed bumps on Bell Avenue and inquired if Borough Engineer Schrek could include this request as part of a grant. Borough Engineer

Schrek stated that he would look into traffic calming measures and grant applications. Some discussion developed on speeding on Borough streets and potential solutions.

Mayor Liptak announced that prior to moving on to Resolutions, Council needs to take action on some items that were discussed in Executive Session.

On motion by Council President Lobell, seconded by Councilman Foohey, it was moved to hire Robert Andreychak as part-time Recreation Director at the current 2014 annual salary of \$14,843 retroactive to January 1, 2015.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Gara, Giraldi, Lobell

Nay: Sibilialia

Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 5-0-1.

On motion by Council President Lobell, seconded by Councilwoman Carra, it was moved to hire Albert Bartocci as part-time Assistant Recreation Director at the current 2014 annual salary of \$6,763.00 retroactive to January 1, 2015.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Gara, Giraldi, Lobell, Sibilialia

Nay: XXX

Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 6-0.

On motion by Council President Lobell, seconded by Councilwoman Carra, it was moved to hire Richard Johnson as full-time Laborer in the Public Works Department starting January 19, 2015 at the hourly rate of \$21.24.

Recorded Vote:

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Gara, Giraldi, Lobell, Sibilialia

Nay: XXX

Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 6-0.

On motion by Councilwoman Gara, seconded by Councilman Sibilialia, it was moved to promote Jeff Mencaroni to Equipment Operator in the Public Works Department retroactive to January 1, 2015 at the hourly rate of \$29.37.

Recorded Vote:

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

Motion Carried 6-0.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 2015-01-23 - Resolution Authorizing the Borough of Raritan to Enter Into a Recycling Agreement with the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders for 2015 Residential Recycling Services

On motion by Councilwoman Gara, seconded by Council President Lobell, it was moved to approve Resolution No. 2015-01-23.

Recorded Vote on Resolution No. 2015-01-23:

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

Motion Carried 6-0.

Resolution No. 2015-01-24- Resolution Authorizing Submission of the Fiscal Year 2015-16 Bridgewater-Raritan Municipal Alliance Request for Application with Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders in the Amount of \$71,522

On motion by Councilwoman Gara, seconded by Councilwoman Carra, it was moved to approve Resolution No. 2015-01-24.

Recorded Vote on Resolution No. 2015-01-24:

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

Motion Carried 6-0.

Resolution No. 2015-01-25 - Resolution Authorizing 2014 Municipal Budget Appropriations Transfer

On motion by Councilwoman Carra, seconded by Councilwoman Gara, it was moved to approve Resolution No. 2015-01-25.

Recorded Vote on Resolution No. 2015-01-25:

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Gara, Giraldi, Lobell, Sibilialia

Nay: XXX
Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 6-0.

PURCHASE ORDER REQUESTS

1. Administration - Annual Security and Fire Alarm Contract - Automatic Communications Alarm in the amount of \$4,750.00

On motion by Council President Lobell, seconded by Councilwoman Gara, it was moved to approve the above listed purchase order request.

Recorded Vote:

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

Motion Carried 6-0.

2. Fire Department - Repairs to 16 Anderson Street Firehouse - N. Tozzi Construction in the amount of \$2,465.00.

On motion by Councilman Sibilialia, seconded by Councilman Foohey, it was moved to approve the above listed purchase order request.

Recorded Vote:

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

Motion Carried 6-0.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Liptak shared the following correspondence, the Bridgewater-Raritan Municipal Alliance was awarded a grant in the amount of \$35,761.00 from the New Jersey Governor's Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse; Somerset County will be holding a shredding event on June 20, 2015 at Washington School; the Mayors Wellness Campaign is inviting towns to participate in the NJ Healthy Town Designation. Mayor Liptak also read a resignation letter, hand delivered from James Johnson of the Public Works Department announcing his retirement on May 31, 2015.

Mayor Liptak also announced that January 14th marks the 30 year anniversary of employment for Annie Lella, the Borough

Administrative Assistant, and invited Council to attend a small celebration tomorrow morning at 10:00a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gerri Cicero of 5 Woodmere Street, Raritan, New Jersey inquired about the process to obtain access to Council emails. Ms. Cicero commented to Councilman Giraldi that she is offended that he questioned the integrity of Councilwoman Gara and Councilman Lobell regarding their liaison assignments. Ms. Cicero stated that the current Council Meetings are a circus and televising these meetings may show residents how these meetings are being conducted. Ms. Cicero also commented that she has not seen anything done in the past few months and is hoping that now that there is a fair Council in place, maybe something can get done for Raritan.

Richard Yadlosky of 267 Weiss Terrace, Raritan, New Jersey commented that Council is elected to work for the people and should cut out the nonsense. Mr. Yadlosky inquired if the Johnson who is retiring is related to the Johnson being hired and Council President Lobell responded that they were. Mr. Yadlosky stated that Council should cut out the emails and evasiveness; keep pressure on the Department of Public Works; and there is no reason that Council Meetings should be televised. Council Meetings should be a forum for exchanging ideas and people may be reluctant to speak or feel intimidated if the proceedings are televised. Mr. Yadlosky commented that this is the people's meeting and televising is a lousy idea.

Adele Goetsch of 6 Nevius Street, Raritan, New Jersey commented that in the vicinity of 73 Canal Street water ponds in the street and freezes. Ms. Goetsch requested that a Borough official take a look at this issue since it may be a safety concern. Ms. Goetsch also commented that she is totally against televising meetings and stated that she is much more comfortable without a camera.

Donald Tozzi of 38 Glaser Avenue, Raritan, New Jersey inquired about the \$4,600.00 in funds that was allocated for a Borough calendar. Councilwoman Gara responded that she is trying to pull together a 2015 calendar. Mr. Tozzi responded that he knows of two companies who can print a calendar for \$4,200.00.

Tom Brown of 18 Elmer Street, Raritan, New Jersey stated that he agrees that the Borough website needs to be updated and a lot of the information is out dated. Mr. Brown commented that the website is in need of regular maintenance. Regarding televising meetings, Mr. Brown stated that the Borough is in the minority

and needs to progress to the 21st century. Mr. Brown also commented on speeding and stated that the Borough does not have sufficient regulations and penalties.

Mayor Liptak announced that Council has some additional items to discuss in Executive Session. Borough Attorney Wenner announced that Resolution No. 2015-01-26 Executive Session Subject Matter: Public Works Contract Negotiations and Litigation would be added to the Agenda.

On motion by Councilwoman Gara, seconded by Council President Lobell, it was moved to approve Resolution No. 2015-01-26.

Recorded Vote on Resolution No. 2015-01-26:

Aye: Carra, Foohey, Gara, Giraldi, Lobell, Sibilgia

Nay: XXX

Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 6-0.

Council convened in Executive Session at 8:30p.m.

On motion by Councilwoman Gara, seconded by Councilman Foohey, 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 8:35p.m.

Mayor Liptak stated that the second portion of Executive Session is concluded and no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Recorded Vote: AYE: All Ayes.

NAY: XXX

Abstain: XXX

Motion Carried 6-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36p.m.

January 13, 2015
Agenda-Workshop Meeting

Respectively Submitted,

Marguerite Schmitt, RMC
Borough Clerk

Approved: _____