



BOROUGH OF HADDON HEIGHTS
COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
ZOOM

Mayor Zachary Houck called the meeting to Order at 7:00 p.m. He then read the following statement:

“In accordance with Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, P.L. 1975, notice of this meeting was posted on the bulletin board designed for that purpose and notice was transmitted to the official newspapers provided by Resolution adopted January 4, 2020.”

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Houck asked the Clerk for roll call.

Under roll call, Council President Madden and Councilwoman Kurtz were present as well as Councilmen Schreiber, Morgan and Ottoson, Borough Solicitor Howard Long, Borough Clerk Kelly Santosusso were also present. Councilman Mrozinski was absent.

CAUCUS SESSION:

Update on COVID 19

Mayor Houck provided an update on the COVID 19 pandemic, including updates on the federal government stimulus, unemployment filing information and testing sites in our area. He said the Fire Department has received a huge donation of 1095 masks. Councilman Ottoson said that several of the local banks have been helpful with small business loans.

Primary Election Moved to July 7th

Santosusso announced that due to the Primary Election being moved from June 2nd to July 7th, we will need to move the Council Work Session meeting to July 8th. She said if no member had any objection, she will advertise the change of date. No objection was made.

Financial Disclosure Statements

Santosusso reminded all local government officers of the requirement to complete their financial disclosure statement filing no later than April 30th.

2020 Census

Mayor Houck provided an update on Haddon Heights' 66% completion rate, West side of town at 68% completion. He said that the Census has been extended beyond June. He encouraged all to complete their 2020 Census and encouraged Council to assist with pushing this effort forward.

Certificate of Continued Occupancy on Resales

Santosusso explained that Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer Dave Taraschi asked that Ordinance 2018:1453 be amended to clarify that the responsible party for obtaining the CCO to be the seller. Solicitor Howard Long said he will review Ordinance and make a recommendation to Council.

Noise Ordinance

Solicitor Long said that Councilman Mrozinski had questioned whether consideration should be given to temporarily change the time work may begin in the morning because so many residents are home. Discussion

ensued with a consensus that the time should not be changed, especially since we are approaching the summer months and many landscapers work earlier to avoid the later day heat.

RECESS OF CAUCUS SESSION 7:25 p.m.

Councilman Mrozinski arrived at 7:29 p.m.

COMMENCEMENT OF BUSINESS SESSION

Mayor Houck called the Business Session to order at 7:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Mayor Houck asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CAUCUS AND AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

Mayor Houck called for Public Comment on Caucus and Agenda items only.

Jason Lewer, 1629 Oak Avenue – Mr. Lewer asked why the Rite Aid testing site was private. Mayor Houck responded that he meant that their site is being run by Rite Aid and not the County or a hospital.

Seeing no movement, a motion to close the public comment portion of the meeting was made by Councilman Morgan, seconded by Council President Madden.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Houck asked for a motion to approve the Council Work Session Meeting Minutes of April 7, 2020. A motion to approve was made by Council President Madden, seconded by Councilman Schreiber. All members were in favor.

Mayor Houck asked for a motion to approve the Executive Session Minutes of April 7, 2020. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Schreiber, seconded by Councilwoman Kurtz. All members were in favor.

COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS:

Councilwoman Kurtz had no report.

Councilman Schreiber said he the Finance Committee has been meeting weekly to discuss the financial crisis we may face with anticipated reduced tax collection.

Councilman Morgan had no report.

Council President Madden said she wished to thank Public Safety and the Department of Public Works as they worked through the significant windstorms that came through town today bringing down several large trees and causing property damage, and power outages. She said this was particularly hard given the circumstances all are experiencing through the pandemic. She addressed the 25th anniversary of the tragic loss of officers John Norcross and John McLaughlin saying that a beautiful ceremony had to be canceled due to the circumstances related to COVID 19 but it will be held next year. She concluded by encouraging everyone to stay the course with social distancing.

Councilman Ottoson recognized the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day and although the ceremony planned was canceled, a celebration will be held next year. He said the trees will be ordered for planting and distribution in the fall.

Mayor Houck echoed Council President Madden's sentiments on Public Safety and DPW. He said he and the Office of Emergency Management Coordinator, Stephen Kinky surveyed some of the damage and noted that two homes had been deemed uninhabitable by Construction Official Ralph Jones. He said that he wished to commend the Public Safety workers who helped to pull someone out of their vehicle who had been hit by a downed tree.

BOROUGH ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Steve Bach, 304 White Horse Pike – said he would rely on his written submitted report but highlighted the following items:

The 2019 Camden County Open Space \$100,000 grant for design, construction and inspection/construction management for Phase 1 of this project. The Multi-use Trail connecting the Dell at Haddon Lake Park to the Devon Avenue recreational facilities. He explained that his office will bid the project under the same contract as the FY 2020 NJDOT Municipal Aid Funding as Devon Avenue project is in close proximity of the other and may be more cost efficient to maximize the grant awards.

He went on to announce that the FY 2020 recreational facility enhancement application deadline has been extended to May 1, 2020. His office plans to submit for pickle ball striping and additional pedestrian accessibility improvements for Devon Avenue recreation facility and for recreational trail materials for Hoff's Park.

Community Development Block Grant Funding application was filed on March 2, 2020 for handicapped accessibility ramps at roadway intersections in close proximity to schools and parks. They are working with the Safe Routes To School group on this.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Public Hearing and final adoption of Ordinance 2020:1485 – An Ordinance Amending §100-17 of the Code of the Borough of Haddon Heights Entitled Exclusion of Vehicles Over A Certain Weight

Mayor Houck asked for a motion to open the public hearing on Ordinance 2020:1485. A motion open public hearing was made by Stephanie Madden, seconded by Councilman Schreiber. Seeing no movement, a motion to close the public hearing was made by Councilman Morgan, seconded by Council President Madden. All members were in favor.

A motion to adopt Ordinance 2020:1485 was made by Councilman Schreiber, seconded by Council President Madden. Under a roll call vote, all members present voted yes.

Public Hearing and Final Adoption of Ordinance 2020:1487 – Ordinance to Exceed the 2019 Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish A Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

Mayor Houck opened the Public Hearing on Ordinance 2020:1487. Seeing no movement, a motion to close the Public Hearing was made by Councilwoman Kurtz, seconded by Councilman Ottoson. Mayor Houck asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance 2020:1487. A motion to adopt was made by Councilman Ottoson, seconded by Council President Madden. Under a roll call vote, all members voted in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 2020:93 – Resolution Authorizing the Tax Collector to Prepare and Issue Estimated Tax Bills

Resolution 2020:94 – Resolution of the Council of the Borough of Haddon Heights Establishing A COVID-19 Oversight Ad-Hoc Committee

Resolution 2020:95 – Resolution Authorizing Refund of a Community Center Rental Fee

Resolution 2020:96 – Resolution Authorizing the Payment of Bills and Claims for the 2nd Half of April

Resolution 2020:97 – Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute A Shared Services Agreement By and Between the County of Camden and the Borough of Haddon Heights for the Development and Enhancement of the Haddon Heights Multi-Use Trail, Phase I (Subject Trail Segment)

Resolution 2020:98 – A Resolution Providing for a Meeting Not Open To The Public In Accordance with the Provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12. ***Matters of Attorney Client Privilege. Discussion is expected to be 1 hr. in duration. Formal action may be taken following Executive Session***

Mayor Houck asked for a motion to adopt Resolutions 2020:93 through Resolution 2020:98. A motion to adopt Resolutions 2020:93 through 2020:98 was made by Councilman Schreiber, seconded by Council President Madden. Under a roll call vote, all members present voted yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Houck called for Public Comment on any matter.

Jason Lewer, 1629 Oak Street – Mr. Lewer inquired about the Devon Avnue repaving of the road. Bach responded that the DOT grant will cover partial paving of the road beginning from Bellmawr Trail in front of the soccer field to the NJDOT overpass. He said he hopes the funding will allow for paving the first block off of Devon off of Prospect Ridge Blvd. Mr. Lewer asked if Maple Avenue from the Black Horse Pike can be paved. Bach said it has been evaluated and is aware that it is one of the worst roads in town. Discussion ensued regarding several roads in town. Mayor Houck and Councilman Schreiber said we need to look at the infrastructure of the town including the sewer system which will impact a future road program. Schreiber said we will be reviewing every street moving forward.

Kathy Lange, 26 First Avenue – Ms. Lange said that earlier today she was called for some help when the Cabin was hit by a fallen tree which destroyed the shed that held all the Summer Recreation materials. She noted that the Director Stacey Denning has a comprehensive listing of their inventory. She said that two members of the Public Works Department assisted her and Carol Fesi as they spent a couple of hours clearing the debris.

Lange went on to address the Memorial Day Parade. Traditionally, Public Works cleans and prepares the Canons World War II Memorial for the Ceremony following the Parade. She said in the event a Parade is unable to be held, it would be nice to ensure the location looks nice for the placement of wreaths. Mayor Houck thanked Lange for her comments. Lange thanked Mayor and Council for their work during this difficult time.

Susan Griffith, 1613 High Street – Ms. Griffith wanted to comment and recognize the work of Michael and Jodi Tofts Turner for donating food to all the first responders during this time. She said it is helping the local economy as well and asked that they be recognized for their efforts. Mayor Houck agreed saying the EMS in Barrington has raved about the Turners and agreed that they be honored for all they have done for first responders.

Seeing no further movement, the public comment portion of the meeting was closed.

Mayor Houck announced Council will now go into Executive Session. 8:03 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

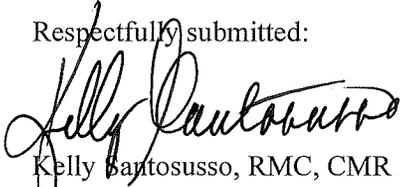
Following Executive Session, all members rejoined the virtual meeting at 8:43 pm. A motion to come out of Executive Session was made by Council President Madden, seconded by Councilwoman Kurtz. All members were in favor.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilman Schreiber, seconded by Councilman Morgan. All members were in favor.

8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Kelly Santosusso, RMC, CMR
Borough Clerk