



BOROUGH OF HADDON HEIGHTS
COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, July 8, 2020, 7:00 p.m.
ZOOM

Council President Stephanie Madden called the meeting to Order at 7:00 p.m. She 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 borough website and notice was transmitted to the official newspapers on April 23, 2020. Meeting notice has remained continuously posted on the borough website with details for the public to participate via the ZOOM platform.

ROLL CALL:

Council President Madden asked the Clerk for roll call.

Under roll call, Council President Madden, Councilwoman Kurtz and Councilmen Schreiber, Morgan and Ottoson were present. Mayor Houck and Councilman Mrozinski were absent. Solicitor Christopher Long, Borough Clerk Kelly Santosusso and Administrative Assistant Marian Hauser were also present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Council President Madden asked for Public Comment on Agenda items only.

Seeing no movement or sound from the public, Council President closed the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

Councilman Mrozinski joined the meeting at 7:10 pm.

CAUCUS WORK SESSION:

Update on COVID-19

Council President provided a brief update on the number of deaths in Camden County. Fortunately numbers in Haddon Heights have remained low. She said we all need to remain vigilant and discussed the concern of children gathering reminding all that we need to remain mindful that the unintended transmission to our senior citizens who remain particularly vulnerable to the virus is a concern.

Update on 2020 Census

Council President briefly reported that Haddon Heights has an 80.1 self response rate which surpasses where we were at this time during the last census. She encouraged anyone who has not yet filed to please do so by going to my2020census.gov.

Borough Offices Reopened to the Public

Clerk Kelly Santosusso reported that Borough offices reopened to the public on Monday, July 6th. She said that appropriate signage has been placed outside of Borough office buildings indicating the requirement of a

face covering upon entrance as well as the promotion of all CDC guidelines on social distancing practices. All office staff have returned to work daily, Monday through Friday. She reported on a significant increase in home sales in Haddon Heights which has kept employees extra busy processing OPRA requests filed by prospective home buyers; the Construction and Zoning Office is currently very busy processing permits and zoning applications. Both Planning Board and the Historic Preservation Commissions have cases scheduled out through September. Lastly she reported that estimated tax bills were mailed out last week and reported on tasks currently being performed by staff. Santosusso said that she is pleased to see everyone return to work daily and concluded by saying and the staff and happy to once again be able to serve our residents in person.

Councilman Mrozinski joined the meeting at 7:10 pm.

Cash Flow Analysis

Councilman Schreiber commented that it is important to discuss our cash flow in light of the pandemic and although we would typically address these matters in session Committee, significant decisions will need to be made over the next six months or so. Schreiber said he asked Christie Ehret, CFO to participate on the call this evening. Discussion ensued on the significance of building surplus and noted that this has been challenging over the last several years. He asked Ehret questions regarding surplus with her noting that over the last three years, our surplus has been dropping. Schreiber asked Ehret if she agreed that this was largely attributable to huge legal fees associated with a lawsuit that totaled just under half a million. Schreiber said we have gone into the pandemic at a disadvantage due to this. Discussion on municipal aid, specifically when, if and how much the municipality might receive this year. He confirmed with the CFO the approximate amount being \$750K. We would have just 6 million collected each quarter if all goes well. We must plan for the unknown. He noted that we collect the County and School Board taxes and they must be paid. We are in okay shape at this point but we could be in a position as many municipalities throughout the state and Country are right now at looking at alternate funding sources. For us, this funding source would likely be in the form of issuance of tax anticipation notes. Councilman Schreiber concluded by saying he believes it is very important for Council to address this issue each month going forward, not only for the benefit of Council but for our residents to understand as we move forward.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the June 16, 2020 Business Meeting Minutes

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES of June 9, 2020 SPECIAL MEETING and June 16, 2020 Business Meeting

Council President asked for a motion to approve the above meeting Minutes. Councilman Mrozinski said that he had not had an opportunity to review the minutes. Council President Madden moved to table the minutes until the next meeting. Councilman Mrozinski seconded. All members present were in favor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 2020:126 – Resolution to Join New Jersey Sustainable Energy Joint Meeting

Resolution 2020:127 – Resolution Requesting the Insertion of A Special Item of Revenue in the Budget of Any County or Municipality Pursuant To N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (Chapter 159 P.L. 1948) – *\$100,000 Camden County Trail Funding*

Resolution 2020:128 – Resolution Requesting the Insertion of A Special Item of Revenue in the Budget of Any County or Municipality Pursuant To N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (Chapter 159 P.L. 1948) – *\$315,000.00 NJDOT 2020 – Reconstruction of Devon Avenue - Phase II.*

Resolution 2020:129 – Resolution Authorizing a Refund of a Fire Department Permit Fee

Resolution 2020:130 – Resolution Authorizing Submission of a Grant Application for Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse

Resolution 2020:131 – Resolution Authorizing Refund of Tax Overpayments to CoreLogic Tax Services

Resolution 2020:132 – Resolution Authorizing Refund of Tax Overpayments to Lereta, LLC

Resolution 2020:133 – Resolution Authorizing Payment of Bills and Claims for the First Half of July

Resolution 2020:134 – 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. ***1.) Matters of Attorney-Client Privilege. Discussion is expected to be ½ hr. in duration. Formal action may be taken following Executive Session.***

Resolution 2020:135 – Resolution Amending the Borough of Haddon Heights Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual to Include a Coronavirus (COVID-19) Policy

Resolution 2020:136 – Resolution Amending the Borough of Haddon Heights Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual to Include a Policy On Core Values and Mutual Cooperation in the Ongoing COVID-19 Response

Council President asked for a motion to approve Resolutions 2020:126 through Resolution 2020:136. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Ottoson, seconded by Councilman Schreiber. Under a roll call vote, all members were in favor with the exception of Councilman Schreiber who abstained from Resolution 2020:126.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Council President opened the Public Comment portion on any matter to the Public. Seeing no movement or comment by the public, Council President Madden asked for a motion to close Public Comment. Councilwoman Kurtz moved to close, Councilman Morgan seconded. All members were in favor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council President Madden announced that Council will now go into Executive Session and that we will rejoin the public meeting following.

Following Executive Session, the meeting was reopened to the public at 7:37 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Seeing no further action to be taken, Council President asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Kelly Santosusso, RMC, CMR
Borough Clerk