



BOROUGH OF HADDON HEIGHTS
COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, July 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, Councilwoman Kurtz and Councilmen Ottoson and Mrozinski were present as well as Borough Solicitor Howard Long, Borough Clerk Kelly Santosusso and Administrative Assistant Marian Hauser. Councilmen Morgan and Schreiber were absent but excused.

CAUCUS SESSION:

Update on COVID19

Mayor Houck reported on the latest statistics in Camden County. He said that overall, the state is trending in the right direction. 55 additional cases in Camden County 8,426 and 528 deaths year to date. Two additional males in their 20's in Haddon Heights. 40 cases in and three (3) deaths year to date. Over the last two to three weeks the growing number of cases are in the younger age bracket. Younger population is congregating during the summertime. We continuing to urge social distancing and to patronize our local businesses. Mayor Houck said we must remain vigilant. He reported Camden County receiving 88 million in CARES Act funding. Part of this funding authorizes the allocation of small grants in the amount of 10 million to small businesses. Grant opens this Thursday at 8 am. Please visit www.camdencountycares.com. Mayor Houck said that Council President Madden, he and other Councilmembers have been making calls to encourage businesses to participate. Councilman Ottoson asked what the allocation was. Mayor responded that the first round is 20 million.

Update on 2020 Census

Mayor Houck provided an update on the 2020 Census. Haddon Heights reporting is at 80.3% for self-response rate which is above where we were in 2010 at the same point. New Jersey is reporting a 64% completion rate. A door to door campaign will begin in August. Deadline will go to October 31st.

Small System Asset Management Plan for Sanitary Sewer System

Mayor Houck noted Bond Ordinance 2020:1492 for Introduction (first reading). He then turned over to Craig Reilly from Bach Associates. Craig Reilly said back in 2018, the Borough submitted to the state a grant for 100K which was to conduct an inventory of the sanitary sewer system. Part of the process is that the Borough is on the hook for \$250,000 in improvements over the three year period. The bond ordinance ensures the improvements will be done. If the Borough does not commit to the \$250,000 in improvements, then we will have to pay back the 100K. Mayor asked if there were any questions. Councilwoman Kurtz questioned when the last time the Borough did an assessment on the condition of the sewer infrastructure. Craig says he is not aware of a full scale assessment. At this point, we review street by street. Clerk Kelly Santosusso said she was not aware of it being done during her tenure. Mayor Houck says the \$250,000 in work is easily achievable. This is the first step in a cohesive approach moving forward.

RECESS OF CAUCUS SESSION 7:15 p.m.

COMMENCEMENT OF BUSINESS SESSION:

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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.

Seeing and hearing no movement, Mayor Houck closed the Public Comment portion of the meeting. All members present were in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Houck asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the June 16, 2020 Council Business Meeting. A motion to approve was made by Council President Madden, seconded by Councilman Ottoson. All members present were in favor with the exception of Councilwoman Kurtz and Councilman Mrozinski who abstained.

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES of the June 9, 2020 Special Meeting. A motion to approve was made to Councilman Ottoson, seconded by Councilwoman Kurtz. All members present were in favor. A motion to approve the June 16, 2020 Executive Session Minutes was made by Councilwoman Kurtz, seconded by Councilman Ottoson with the exception of Councilman Mrozinski who abstained. All members present were in favor.

As the Executive Session Minutes of July 8, 2020 were not made available to Council, Mayor Houck asked for a motion to table them to the August 4th meeting. A motion to table was made by Council President Madden, seconded by Councilman Ottoson. All members present were in favor.

COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS:

Councilman Ottoson reported Environmental Commission meeting will be held this week. Solar report – NJ Environmental Infrastructure Trust making some recommendations to us. Ottoson said he needs to get information from previous Engineer, Pennoni Associates. A conference call will be scheduled to determine next steps in remediation so that the Borough can consider solar options at Devon Avenue.

Council President Madden had no report.

Councilman Mrozinski had no report.

Councilwoman Kurtz reminded all that that the Library has reopened. Encouraged all to go to their website. Councilman Ottoson asked if curbside books were available. Kurtz responded yes.

BOROUGH ENGINEER'S REPORT:

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

2021 NJ Department of Transportation municipal aid grant was submitted June 30th. St. Martins was part of the 100K open space grant. He reported that Councilmen Morgan and Mrozinski attended a meeting with the County for pedestrian improvements for the multiuse trail. This will be discussed the next Engineering Committee meeting. The NJDOT application includes the remainder of Devon Avenue and St. Martins. He said we believe this will be a strong scoring application and are hoping we will be successful.

2021 Municipal Aid NJDOT funding – Devon Avenue beginning at Bellmawr to the Rt. 295 overpass, hopefully getting to Chestnut. Hoping for award at the August Council meeting.

Councilman Ottoson inquired about the bike trail, specifically if it will include sharrods. This was going to be done under one contract shared bike lane, pavement markings and signage.

Councilwoman Kurtz inquired about the Sanitary Sewer Small System Asset Management Plan. Bach responded that this topic is on next week's Engineering Committee meeting Agenda. He will advise of the status and which direction the Committee recommends. Councilwoman Kurtz thanked Bach.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

INTRODUCTION OF BOND ORDINANCE 2020:1492 – BOND ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PREPARATION OF A SMALL SYSTEM ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM IN AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF HADDON HEIGHTS, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$100,000 THEREFOR; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OR BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES OF THE BOROUGH OF HADDON HEIGHTS, COUNTY OF CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY, IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF UP TO \$100,000; MAKING CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS AND COVENANTS; AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN RELATED ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOREGOING

Public Hearing and Final Adoption of Bond Ordinance 2020:1492 is scheduled for August 4, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building located at 625 Station Avenue, Haddon Heights, New Jersey. *Meeting may be conducted via ZOOM Platform due to circumstances related to COVID19. The public will be provided details to join the meeting at www.haddonhts.com.*

Mayor Houck asked for a motion to Introduce Bond Ordinance 2020:1492. A motion was made by Council President Madden, seconded by Councilman Ottoson. Under roll call vote, all members present voted yes.

Mayor Houck read aloud Resolutions 2020:137 through Resolution 2020:141

Resolution 2020:137 – Resolution of the Borough of Haddon Heights, County of Camden and State of New Jersey Authorizing Execution of the Municipal and County Agency Coronavirus Relief Fund Program Reimbursement Agreement

Resolution 2020:138 – Resolution Authorizing Salaries, Wages and Reimbursements to Be Paid to Non-Contractual Employees of the Borough of Haddon Heights

Resolution 2020:139 – Resolution Authorizing Refund of Various Recreational Program Fees Due to Circumstances Related to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Resolution 2020:140 – Resolution Authorizing the Payment of Bills and Claims for the 2nd Half of July

Resolution 2020:141 – 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 related to Attorney-Client Privilege. Discussion is expected to be ½ hr. in duration. Formal action may be taken following Executive Session.*

A motion to adopt Resolutions 2020:137 through 2020:141 was made by Councilwoman Kurtz, seconded by Council President Madden. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted in favor with the exception of Council President Madden who abstained from a payment to the CCMUA included in Resolution 2020:140.

Mayor Houck asked Solicitor Long going forward, we can go right into the Business portion of the meeting for the second meeting of the month instead of waiting until 7:30 pm. Long responded yes and said he will work with Clerk Santosusso to advertise the change to the annual meeting notice.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY MATTER:

Richard Egner, 22 W. Atlantic Avenue – Mr. Egner asked questions of Craig Reilly from the Engineer’s Office, is the Multi-purpose trail project the E. Atlantic Trail or the Devon Avenue trail? Reilly clarified that this is the trail that will run from the Dell to the Devon Avenue recreational complex. Egner then asked about the project Rails to Trails that will run along E. Atlantic Avenue. He said he reviewed the conceptual plans, it appears they are shifting traffic lanes closer to the curb line at Local Links. He asked if the Borough is going to ask Local Links to remove the tables and chairs. Mayor Houck responded that the County will work with the Borough and with the owner of Local Links to address any necessary changes. He encouraged Mr. Egner to inquire with the County on a fillable form they have on their website. Egner then expressed his concerns of fire vehicles being able to make turns onto E. Atlantic Avenue as there are possible plans of increased senior housing. Mayor Houck said all of these concerns will be addressed as we move forward.

Seeing and hearing no further comment, Mayor Houck closed the Public Comment portion of the meeting. All members present were in favor.

Mayor Houck announced that Council leave the open meeting and go into Executive Session,

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

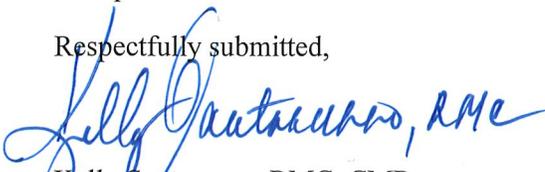
Following Executive Session, the meeting was re-opened to the public at 8:35 pm. A motion to come out of Executive Session was made by Councilwoman Madden, seconded by Councilwoman Kurtz. No formal action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Houck asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion to adjourn was made by Council President Madden, seconded by Councilman Ottoson. All members present were in favor.

8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Kelly Santosusso, RMC, CMR
Borough Clerk