



BOROUGH OF HADDON HEIGHTS
COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 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 transmitted to the official newspapers provided by Amendment to Annual Meeting Notice on July 24, 2020. Meeting notice has remained continuously posted on the bulletin board designed for that purpose and 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, Councilmen Mrozinski, Morgan and Ottoson were present as well as Borough Solicitor Howard Long, Borough Clerk Kelly Santosusso, Administrative Consultant Dave Taraschi and Administrative Assistant Julie Yuhaze. Mayor Houck was absent but excused.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Council President asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

CAUCUS SESSION:

Update on COVID19

Council President Madden reported on the latest statistics in Camden County is seeing 25 to 50 new cases a day. Year to date, 10,230 positive cases and 569 deaths. Haddon Heights had 11 new cases in September – mostly between the ages of teens and 20's. Younger residents are prime age group that is being impacted. 57 positive cases, three deaths year to date. CC Cares Funding through the Cares Act is still available. Currently, over half a million dollars has been given to HH businesses. Madden encouraged business owners to visit the Camden County Cares website for criteria and application.

Update on 2020 Census

Council President Madden provided an update on the 2020 Census. Deadline is September 30, 2020 census.gov. How important it is to complete and dictates the funding we receive. Residents may see Census workers

2020 General Election

Clerk Santosusso provided details for the 2020 General Election to be held on Tuesday, November 3rd. She noted that due to the Election being conducted primarily by Vote by Mail, the County Board of Elections worked with the Borough to combine three of seven districts within Haddon Heights. District 1, formerly the VFW on E. Atlantic Avenue and District 4, formerly the Sons of Italy at W. Atlantic Avenue and Kings Hwy will be combined with District 3 at the Community Center located at 321 7th Avenue. Districts 2 & 5 remain in the Municipal Building at 625 Station Avenue and Districts 6 and 7 remain at Glenview Avenue School, 1700 Sycamore Street. Santosusso went on to explain that all registered voters will receive a Vote by Mail ballot in the mail. Ballots may be mailed via U.S. mail or dropped in one of several official Vote by Mail drop boxes throughout the County. Closest official drop box is located at Audubon's Municipal Building on Nicholson Road.

Santosusso reported that voters may vote provisionally (by paper ballot) at polling locations. One voting machine will be at each poll location for handicapped voters only.

Halloween Trick or Treating Hours

Council President Madden reported that it is the hope to permit door to door trick or treating encouraging social distancing practices. She noted the hours will be set officially and residents will be kept up to date as decisions are made. We are discouraging larger gatherings for Halloween due to the pandemic and safety of our residents.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CAUCUS AND AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

Council President Madden called for Public Comment on Caucus and Agenda items only. Seeing and hearing no movement, Council President Madden closed the Public Comment portion of the meeting. All members present were in favor.

Seeing none, motion to close public comment. Motion was made by Councilman Morgan, seconded by Councilwoman Kurtz. All members present in favor

Councilman Mrozinski joined the meeting at 7:15 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Council President Madden asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the September 1, 2020 Council Work Session. A motion to approve was made by Councilman Ottoson, seconded by Councilman Morgan. All members were in favor with the exception of Councilwoman Kurtz, Councilmen Mrozinski and Schreiber who abstained.

Madden Tabled Executive Session Minutes to the next meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS:

Council President Madden asked Councilmembers if there were any reports this evening. There were none.

BOROUGH ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Steve Bach, Bach Associates, 304 White Horse Pike – Mr. Bach noted that he will rely on his written report but said that Resolution 2020:165 awarding a contract for the FY 2020 NJDOT Trust Fund grant for Devon Avenue, Phases I and II is on the this evening's Agenda for Council's consideration. Craig Reilly of Bach Associates clarified that the reconstruction will get us four blocks in from Prospect Ridge Blvd. and along the soccer fields and tennis courts up to the Rt. 295 overpass. Bach noted that the bid documents were provided to Solicitor Howard Long for his review.

Mr. Long commented that he had reviewed and issued a legal opinion this afternoon to Mayor and Council. He added the bid looks good and shared his favorable opinion of the contractor and their reputation.

Solicitor Long asked Clerk Santosusso if we had a representative present to discuss the annual renewal for prescription drug coverage for active full-time employees and retirees. Santosusso said that although Vision and Dental Coverage renewals remained flat for the coming year, we are expecting a 10% increase in prescription drug coverage from current carrier, Bollinger Prescription. She said this is currently being negotiated by Hardenbergh Insurance Group, our broker of record for health insurance. Santosusso introduced Sherry Conklin of Hardenbergh Insurance. Conklin reported that Bollinger has responded that they will not come down in rates as the borough had a high utilization of the plan this year. Discussion ensued as to potential options. She said

that she is hoping for competitive rates from the Health Insurance Fund (HIF), of which we are members, and RX Alliance.

Councilwoman Kurtz asked questions regarding timing and when this is expected to be resolved. Conklin responded she can typically get proposals within 48 hrs. but this year it took considerably longer to get the information from Bollinger. Councilwoman Kurtz asked if we are reviewing the utilization and when the information will be available. Conklin responded she should have something by the end of the week for review.

Council President Madden mentioned that the bronze lion at the Sons of Italy on W. Atlantic and Kings Highway has been installed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL ADOPTION of Ordinance 2020:1494 – An Ordinance Creating Part 1, Chapter 14, Entitled The “Heights Grows Committee” of the Code of the Borough of Haddon Heights, County of Camden and State of New Jersey

Council President asked for a motion to open the Public Hearing. Councilwoman Kurtz moved to open, Councilman Ottoson seconded. Seeing and hearing no movement, Council President Madden closed the Public Hearing. Council President then asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance 2020:1494. Councilman Schreiber made a motion to adopt, seconded by Councilman Ottoson. All members voted in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

Council President Madden read aloud Resolutions 2020:159 through 2020:165.

Resolution 2020:159 – Resolution Authorizing a Refund of a Street Opening Permit Deposit Fee to Root 24 Plumbing

Resolution 2020:160 – Resolution Approving Tax Exemption for a Disabled Veteran and Refund of Taxes to Corelogic Tax Services – *Long*

Resolution 2020:161 – Resolution Authorizing Refund of a Tax Overpayment – *Jensen*

Resolution 2020:162 – Resolution Authorizing Refund of a Tax Overpayment – *Van Schalkwyk*

Resolution 2020:163 – Resolution Authorizing Payment of Bills and Claims for the Second Half of September

Resolution 2020:164 – Resolution Approving Change Order #1 for the FY 2019 New Jersey Department of Transportation Trust Fund, Reconstruction of West High Street – Phase V

Resolution 2020:165 – Resolution Awarding a Contract to Landberg Construction for the FY 2019/FY 2020 New Jersey Department of Transportation Trust Fund, Reconstruction of Devon Avenue Project, Phases I & II

Council President Madden asked for a motion to adopt Resolutions 2020:159 through 2020:165. A motion to adopt Resolutions 2020:159 through 2020:165 was made by Councilman Ottoson, seconded by Councilman Morgan. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted in favor

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY MATTER:

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

Eyster Bomgardner, 1231 Sylvan Drive – Ms. Bomgardner expressed her frustration with increased noise coming from the Dell since the Pandemic. She said that use of the stage has greatly increased and most using the stage are Heights businesses or churches. She noted that she is aware this is the property of Camden County but wanted to bring this to Council’s attention in the hopes of a resolution. She said the nice weather has made the noise even more apparent as windows are open. Council President thanked Ms. Bomgardner for her comments.

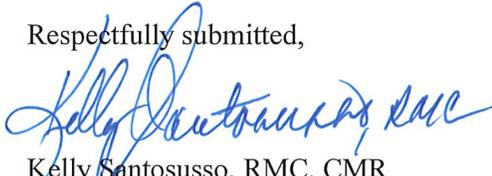
Brenna Spanier, 1228 Sylvan Drive – Ms. Spanier said she is on this evening to support her neighbor. She said we realize a County property and have reached out to them but then gave an example of a 5:15 am gym class with music. She said some of the church events can last a significant period of time. She concluded with saying Sylvan Drive residents are not happy with all of the increased noise. Council President Madden said although it is great to use the open spaces, this is something she understands and will personally reach out to the County Parks and Recs Department for a response. Ms. Spanier thanked Council President.

ADJOURNMENT:

Council President Madden asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion to adjourn was made by Council Scott Schreiber , seconded by Councilwoman Kurtz. All members present were in favor.

7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kelly Santosusso, RMC, CMR
Borough Clerk