



BOROUGH OF HADDON HEIGHTS COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, October 3, 2023, 7:00 pm

Mayor Houck called the meeting to Order at 7:00 pm. 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 and the Revised 2022 Annual Meetings Notice was posted on the bulletin board designed for that purpose and was transmitted to the official newspapers January 7, 2023. Notice has also been posted on the Borough website.”

ROLL CALL:

Mayor Houck asked the Clerk for roll call.

Under roll call, Council President Morgan, Councilmembers Ottoson, Philipps, Russo, Pagan and Harron were present as well as Borough Solicitor, Howard Long, Esq. and Clerk Kelly Santosusso.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

Mayor Houck opened Public Comment on Caucus and Agenda items only.

Seeing no movement, Mayor Houck closed the public comment portion.

CAUCUS WORK SESSION:

2024 Health Insurance Rates and Annual Renewal of Dental Coverage for Active Full-time and Retired Employees – *Dave Weiss, Hardenbergh Insurance*

Dave Weiss of Hardenbergh Insurance reported that he consulted with Delta Dental to see if rates would be extended beyond 2024. Delta Dental advised they would guarantee the savings over a two year period - \$4,500 for a savings of \$9,000.00 over two years. Discussion ensued as to pros and cons in making a change. Weiss assured that the Delta network is broad and that it is one of the best groups in the Dental pool. Council reached a general consensus to make the switch from Horizon to Delta Dental for 2024.

Discussion regarding overall health insurance rates for 2024 ensued with the Southern NJ Regional Health Insurance Fund increases projected at 4.7%. Weiss added that rates have not yet been adopted but he expects they will be over the next week. Mayor Houck and Clerk Santosusso spoke to the Borough moving from the State Health Benefits Plan back in 2017 to the Southern NJ Regional Health Insurance Fund which has proven to benefit Haddon Heights, its employees and retirees greatly given the recent high increases the State Health Benefits Plan has seen over the last few years.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the September 19, 2023 Business Meeting

Mayor Houck asked for a motion to adopt the Minutes of the September 19, 2023 Business Meeting. Motion was moved by Councilman Pagan, seconded by Councilwoman Philipps. All members were in favor.

APPROVAL OF EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES of the September 19, 2023 Business Meeting

Mayor Houck asked for a motion to adopt the Executive Minutes of the September 19, 2023 Business Meeting. Motion was moved by Councilwoman Harron, seconded by Council President Morgan. All members were in favor.

BOROUGH ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Steve Bach, 304 White Horse Pike – Mr. Bach reported that the Community Development Block Grant application was not successful this year. He explained the Camden County CDBG program is competitive with only four (4) awards being made this year. He advised we will work with the Engineering Committee for a more competitive application going forward – unfortunately, the all-accessible playground equipment at Hoff's Park did not score strong enough.

Mr. Bach went on to comment on Resolution 2023:175 added to this evening's Agenda awarding a contract to FY 2022 NJDOT Grant to Landberg Construction LLC in the amount of \$218,487.50 for the Reconstruction of St. Martins Avenue.

Pedestrian Improvements on Station Avenue has been pushed back to the 16th. Recent rains seemed to be the reason for the delay. American Water is currently working on Kings Highway and the hope is that project will be done or pushed further out of Haddon Heights so that we can move forward with pedestrian improvements at the Atlantics.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 2023:1535 – ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL OF THE PILOT AGREEMENT WITH HADDON HEIGHTS SENIOR CITIZEN HOUSING CORP. FOR BLOCK 2301, LOT 28

Mayor Houck asked for a motion to open the Public Hearing on Ordinance 2023:1535. Motion was moved by Council Pagan, seconded by Councilman Ottoson. All members were in favor.

Mayor Houck opened the Public Hearing. Seeing and hearing no movement or comment, Mayor Houck asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing on Ordinance 2023:1535. Motion to close the Public Hearing was made by Councilwoman Philipps, seconded by Councilman Pagan. All members were in favor.

Mayor Houck asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance 2023:1535. Motion was moved by Councilman Pagan, seconded by Councilman Ottoson. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted yes.

PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 2023:1536 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING SALARIES, WAGES AND REIMBURSEMENTS TO BE PAID TO NON-CONTRACTUAL EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF HADDON HEIGHTS

Mayor Houck asked for a motion to open the Public Hearing on Ordinance 2023:1536. Motion was moved by Councilman Pagan, seconded by Councilwoman Harron. All members were in favor.

Mayor Houck opened the Public Hearing. Seeing and hearing no movement or comment, Mayor Houck asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing on Ordinance 2023:1536. Motion to close the Public Hearing was made by Councilwoman Russo, seconded by Council President Morgan. All members were in favor. Mayor Houck asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance 2023:1536. Motion was moved by Councilwoman Philipps, seconded by Councilman Pagan. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted yes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Houck read aloud Resolutions 2023:168 through 2023:175.

Resolution 2023:168 – Resolution Amending Resolution 2023:33 Resolution Concerning Appointments – *Local Board of Health Member, Dr. Kelly Schiers*

Resolution 2023:169 – Resolution Authorizing Refund of Tax Overpayment – *Blumenstein*

Resolution 2023:170 – Resolution Authorizing Tax Exemption – *Sweet*

Resolution 2023:171 – Resolution Authorizing An Award of Contract to Deer Carcass Removal Service, LLC for Provision of Deer Carcass Removal Services on An “As-Needed” Basis Under The Camden County Cooperative Pricing System Id #57 CCCPS (Bid A-35/2022 2nd Year Option)

Resolution 2023:172 – Resolution Authorizing Payment of Bills and Claims for the First Half of October

Resolution 2023:173 – Resolution Awarding A Contract to Superior Vision for the Purpose of Providing Vision Coverage To All Active Full-Time and Retired Employees of the Borough of Haddon Heights for the Period 11/1/23 Through 10/31/24

Resolution 2023:174 – 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.) Matter Related to Infrastructure Improvements and Contracts. Discussion is expected to be ½ hr. in duration. Formal action may be taken on the foregoing item following Executive Session.***

Resolution 2023:175 – Resolution Awarding a Contract to Landberg Construction, LLC in the Amount of \$218,487.50 for the FY 2022 NJDOT Municipal Aid Program Reconstruction of St. Martins Avenue

Mayor Houck asked for a motion to adopt Resolutions 2023:168 through 2023:175. Motion was moved by Councilman Pagan, seconded by Councilwoman Russo. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Houck opened Public Comment on any matter.

Seeing no movement or comment, Mayor Houck closed the public comment portion.

Mayor Houck announced Council will recess into Executive Session.

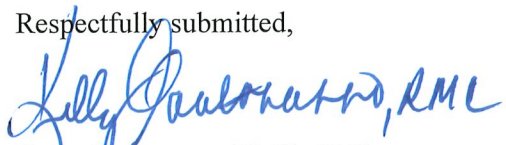
EXECUTIVE SESSION: 7:18 pm

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business before Council, Mayor Houck asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was moved by Councilman Ottoson, seconded by Councilman Pagan. All members were in favor.

7:23 pm

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Kelly Santosusso, RMC". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Kelly Santosusso, RMC, CMR
Borough Clerk