



BOROUGH OF HADDON HEIGHTS
COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 7:00 pm

Council President Christopher Morgan called the meeting to Order at 7:00 pm. He then read the following statement:

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT:

“In accordance with Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, Chapter 231, 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 6, 2024.” *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 and Borough Clerk Kelly Santosusso. Mayor Houck was absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Mayor Houck asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON CAUCUS AND AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

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

Hayden Woodworth, 16 Garden Street – Mr. Hayden spoke in support of the traffic on his street, specifically school traffic and suggested Garden Street between First Avenue and Crest Avenue be considered by Council to become one-way. He described the traffic patterns by high school students pulling into his driveway making k-turns. He is concerned as he has four children who play in the driveway notices that often high school students are distracted while driving. Solicitor Long commented that Councilwoman Russo is aware and his discussed this with him. Russo said she has also discussed with the Chief Schneider who was in agreement. Woodworth shared a petition from the street with five or six neighbors voicing their opinion. Russo said we wanted to be sure that there is neighborhood consensus for the one-way conversion from others on the street. Solicitor Long asked Borough Engineer Steve Bach if he had any concerns and there were none. Long advised that an Ordinance would be provided and that there would be two readings, advertisement in the newspapers of record and a Public Hearing before the Ordinance would be considered for approval. Mr. Woodworth thanked Council for their consideration.

Mayor Houck arrived to the meeting at 7:12 pm.

Anton Donchev, 237 1st Avenue – Mr. Donchev said he is a neighbor of Mr. Woodworth and has lived here for approximately a year and a half and he is in support of one-way request on Garden Street.. He said he has witnessed the k-turns that are made in driveways, at times in the dark following high school extracurricular activities. He agrees this proposal would improve the flow of traffic and be beneficial to the residents in the area.

Seeing and hearing no movement or comment, Mayor Houck closed the Public Comment portion.

CAUCUS SESSION:

Tanner Brewing

Borough Engineer Steve Bach. Provided as requested all application materials to Council Keeping sidewalk clear, allowing for picnic tables less than 30 inches to be installed as represented on the application materials the area between the curb line and sidewalk which has already been improved with artificial grass allowing tables to be installed with permission of the construction code official allowing for installation for stanchions or frames and allowing lighting as approved by the Construction Official. Several other conditions regarding trash receptacles – Bach says he has no objection to cans being installed following Construction Code approval. Bach noted he has no objection to the proposal. Tables will not need approval as the size has already been approved. They may install the tables upon approval of the Council. As Mr. Gentile receives approval from the construction official, stanchions and lighting will be on line. Solicitor Long commented that this may be authorized by resolution this evening and Howard Long will prepare an Agreement and then send to Mr. Gentile and his counsel for review and comment. Councilwoman Philipps expressed her support. Indemnification will be required since it is subject to the right of way. Steve Bach commented the outdoor seating coming to Council was generated by the Land Use Board recommendation.

Primary Election

Clerk Santosusso updated Council on the Camden County Board of Elections decision to not approve the Clerk's proposal to take Districts 6 & 7 out of Glenview School this year due to this being a presidential election year. She explained the Board of Elections is considering the possibility of consolidating all Districts to one location within the Borough. Discussion ensued. Santosusso said she would contact the School District Administrator and advise that Districts 6 & 7 will remain in Glenview School for the Primary and General Elections this year.

Elected Officials Risk Management Seminar Training

Clerk Santosusso advised that all elected officials in the Camden County Joint Insurance Fund are required to take the Risk Management Seminar Training. She reminded all that once completed a \$250 deduction per elected official would come off of our annual assessment. Solicitor Long advised that another town had requested he speak with the JIF regarding whether he would be qualified to administer the training and they agreed. It was agreed that the training could be done collectively prior to a future Council meeting with all members confirming attendance by signing a group sign-in sheet. Santosusso said she will send out dates for the training.

Garden Street In-Between First Ave. to Crest Ave Proposal to One-Way Conversion

Solicitor Long suggested we introduce the Ordinance tonight by title only and he would prepare an Ordinance for second reading for the next meeting.

RECESS OF CAUCUS SESSION AND COMMENCEMENT OF BUSINESS SESSION:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the March 5, 2024 Work Session Minutes

Mayor Houck asked for a motion to approve the March 5, 2024 Work Session Minutes. Motion was moved by Councilmember Pagan, seconded by Councilmember Russo. All members were in favor.

APPROVAL OF THE EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES of the March 5, 2024 Work Session.

Mayor Houck asked for a motion to approve the Executive Session Minutes of the March 5, 2024 Work Session Meeting. Motion was moved by Councilmember Philipps, seconded by Councilmember Harron. All members were in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the March 11, 2024 SPECIAL MEETING

Mayor Houck asked for a motion to approve the Minutes of the March 11, 2024 SPECIAL MEETING. Motion was moved by Councilmember Pagan, seconded by Councilmember Ottoson. All members were in favor.

COUNCILMEMBER REPORTS:

Councilwoman Harron had no report.

Councilwoman Russo advised of the public meeting this Friday, March 22nd at 10 am in Audubon regarding the Kings Highway paving project. She also mentioned the additional paving at the Atlantics and Station is beginning soon and she has requested the work be performed around spring break.

Councilman Ottoson reported on the Shade Tree Commission -50 mature shade tree were ordered. The Shade Tree Commission will be leaving door handle notices at various properties advising of upcoming plantings. We will be aware if any resident does not wish a tree to be planted in front of their residence. He went on to report that the Shade Tree Commission received our Certification for 2023. He thanked Clerk Santosusso for making sure this was done. He went on to report 300 tublings have been ordered for giveaway at the Farmers Market on Sundays from 10 to 1 pm. Heights Grows are requesting donations for the flower planters on Station Avenue. On the Environmental Commission side, State DEP Hazardous Site Discharge Remediation Fund grant application has not yet been approved for remediation at Devon Ave. The Borough has moved to a new Licensed Site Remediation Professional. Dave McCollum working is working on the Sustainable Haddon Heights certification.

Council President Morgan reported on a meeting regarding the Shared Services Agreement with the Borough of Audubon for Public Works Services explaining that the current agreement ends early next year. He described the meeting as a very fruitful and productive meeting. He thanked Mayor Jakubowski of Audubon for his attendance and is hopeful a new Shared Services Agreement can be worked out.

Councilmember Philipps gave the Fire Department Report a copy of which is attached to these Minutes. She went on to give the Police Department Report, a copy also attached. She reported on Officer baseball cards which will include our new K9 Luna. She went on to report that she and Mayor Houck attended Challenge Day March 4th, school selected particular students in grades 9-11. Purpose was to bring the kids together to encourage self-confidence against bullying. Officer DeJoseph was in attendance and won the rock, paper scissors competition which was quite impressive. She thanked the School District for a great program.

Councilmember Pagan reported the Municipal Alliance met last night and planning for the 4th of July Firecracker is officially underway.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Houck advised that he met with representatives from the 5th Legislative District and discussed potential assistance with remediation of the Sanitary Landfill at Devon Avenue, Shared Services for Public Safety and redevelopment. He noted the 5th District is always supportive.

He went on to say that he echoes Councilwoman Philipps comments on Challenge Day and thanked Cory Mueller, Superintendent Carla Bittner for an incredible experience. He said it was an incredible and special experience to be a part of.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

INTRODUCTION of Ordinance 2024:1544 – Ordinance Rescinding Ordinance 2024:1541 and Amending Chapter 125-2 of the Code of the Borough of Haddon Heights Entitled Animal License Fee: Exemptions

Public Hearing and Final Adoption of Ordinance 2024:1544 is scheduled for Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at approximately 7:00 pm in the Municipal Building located at 625 Station Avenue, Haddon Heights, New Jersey.

Mayor Houck asked for a motion to Introduce Ordinance 2024:1544. Motion was moved by Council President Morgan, seconded by Councilman Pagan. Upon a roll call vote, all members were in favor.

INTRODUCTION of Ordinance 2024:1545 by Title Only – Ordinance Authorizing Traffic Flow one way only on Garden Street from First to Crest Avenues.

Public Hearing and Final Adoption of Ordinance 2024:1544 is scheduled for Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at approximately 7:00 pm in the Municipal Building located at 625 Station Avenue, Haddon Heights, New Jersey.

Mayor Houck asked for a motion to Introduce Ordinance 2024:1544. Motion was moved by Council President Morgan, seconded by Councilman Pagan. Upon a roll call vote, all members were in favor.

Resolution 2024:87 – Resolution Authorizing Payment of Bills and Claims for the First Half of February

Resolution 2024:88 – Resolution Amending Resolution 2024:31 Resolution Concerning Appointments

Resolution 2024:89 – Resolution Approving Change Order #1 for the FY 2021/FY 2022 Road Program Eleventh, Maple, Bradshaw and First Avenues

Resolution 2024:90 – Resolution of the Borough of Haddon Heights Rescinding Resolution 2024:77 and Authorizing the Borough Engineer To Design, Inspect and Publicly Bid the Reconstruction of Maple Avenue from Devon Avenue to Glenview Avenue Project

Resolution 2024:91 – Resolution Authorizing Transfers of Appropriation Reserves

Mayor Houck asked for a motion to adopt Resolutions 2024:87 through 2024:91. Motion was moved by Councilmember Pagan, seconded by Councilmember Ottoson. Under a roll call vote, all members voted yes.

Resolution 2024:92 – Resolution Authorizing Approval of Outdoor Seating in Public Right of Way for Tanner Brewing. Mayor Houck asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2024:92. Motion was moved by Councilmember Russo, seconded by Councilmember Philipps. Upon a roll call vote, all members voted in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Houck opened Public Comment on any matter.

Kelly Schiers 209 8th Avenue – Ms. Schiers said she is looking for an update on 802 Station Avenue. Mayor Houck said he advised as to status in an email to Ms. Schiers noting that Solicitor Howard Long and Alena Hyatt of Parker McCay, Solicitor of the Planning Board regarding how the Borough can proceed with the original Planning Board application and the sale of the property. Long further advised this is an ongoing matter and there is the potential for litigation. He explained that it is a joint effort between the Land Use Board attorney and himself. Ms. Hyatt is looking into certain issues any obligations – research is ongoing and she has not yet issued any opinion. It was the intent to review the Sober Living Facility guidelines, what role the Governing Body has and what we are able to do noting these facilities are subject to fair housing act and are heavily regulated by the state. He further opined the regulations are draconian heavy regulated, zero tolerance facilities. Ms. Schiers responded there is little regulation surrounding class F residencies. She asked where the application process is at the state. Long responded we do not know at this point.

Mark Black 204 8th Avenue – Mr. Black commented on 802 Station Avenue as well asking is this Class F license separate from the zoning of the property or whether the Borough has a role in some part. Long responded this is exactly the question we are looking into. Mr. Black asked if the outcome will be public? Long responded that the public will know based on Council's actions. Council President Morgan advised any opinion would be covered by attorney client privilege but we are aware of the sensitivity of the issue for the town and residents around the property and we will try to keep the town up to date of what steps will be taken and why.

Bob Famular – 21 8th Avenue – Mr. Famular asked if the purchaser's attorney could be disclosed. Long responded Zeller & Wieliczko, LLP. Famular asked what office they are filing with. Long responded the Department of Community Affairs.

Seeing no further movement or comment, Mayor Houck closed the Public Comment portion.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to act upon, Mayor Houck asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was moved by Councilmember Ottoson, seconded by Councilmember Russo. All members were in favor.

Time: 7:48 pm

Respectfully submitted,


Kelly Santosusso, RMC, CMR
Borough Clerk



MEMO

FROM: Chief Thomas Schneider #1851

DATE: March 19, 2024

TO: Director of Public Safety Regina Philipps Cc: Mayor & Council

SUBJECT: February 2024 Monthly Report

Below is the report for the Haddon Heights Police Department along with important topics. As always do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

MONTHLY STATISTICS

- 6482 Miles were driven on patrol, Total fleet Mileage 721,805
- 1013 Calls For Service
- 20 Arrests and Charges
- 14 Accidents
- 146 Motor Vehicle Summonses Issued

Summary of new initiatives:

-Officer Baseball Cards – Coming soon!

-Pizza with Police – (Brooklyn Pizza December 19th 6-8pm) Face painting, touch a truck, giveaways, special guest appearance and more!

-NATIONAL Night Out 2024 – (August 6th at the Dell) All activities for kids including, face painting, touch a truck, popcorn, ice cream, pie eating contest, games, giveaways, and more!

-Autism Spectrum Disorder/ and or all disabilities registry- The registry provides information to the Police Dept. in case of an emergency specifically about the registered person's emergency contacts, detailed physical descriptions, known routines, favorite attractions, and any other pertinent information that could help us if an emergency situation arises.

-GCPOP (Garnet Country Police Outreach Program) – is a program made up of Haddon Heights, Barrington, Lawnside, and Merchantville police officers, that meet/play sports/activities/etc., with students within our community to allow them to get to know us, answer any questions, and help them with any school or life event that they may need assistance with.

-PROJECT SAVE PROGRAM (Substance Abuse Visionary Effort) – is a strategy focused on not only arrest, but on practices and policies that involve prevention and intervention. This program also focuses on diverting defendants with a drug addiction disorder into treatment, and will ultimately reduce crime within the borough.

Ordinances and Resolutions:

The following SOPs to be adopted by Resolution/Ordinance for HHPD:

General Initiatives

- **Reminder** – HHPD would like to remind residents to please obey prohibited parking laws and ordinances around our schools, sports facilities, and recreational centers. Please obey all posted **NO PARKING** areas in order to allow for the safe passage of pedestrians and vehicular traffic.

- **Traffic** –
 - Station Ave/E. Atlantic/W. Atlantic paving possibly week of Easter break
 - Pedestrian upgrades in the area of the (Prospect/Glenview)
 - KHY construction will be starting around Spring 2024 (County)
 - Speed RADAR sign proposal in the area of (1600 block of Prospect Ridge Blvd. (completed)
 - RADAR Enforcement increased / Radar sign deployed where potential speeding problems are reported. (Bellmawr and Maple)
 - Officers have increased STOP intersection monitoring where potential violations have been reported.
 - HHPD continues to work with the Department of Public Works and the County to identify intersections in need of yellow curbing and crosswalks to increase safety of students and pedestrians.

➤ **Haddon Heights Overnight Parking Request (ONLINE LINK)**

- Borough website online link <https://haddonhts.com> (click on the overnight parking request and complete the requested information)
- Overnight parking permission requests are valid for one night only.
- The vehicle must be parked with the traffic flow.
- The vehicle's gross weight must be less than 8,001 pounds.
- The vehicle cannot be placed on the list if it is operable and there is room in the driveway.
- You must give a valid reason why the vehicle is being left on the street.
- Excessive requests, abuse, or not adhering to the policy may result in a summons.
- In the event of snow or predicted snow, all on-street parking is prohibited.

➤ **Permit Parking**

Residents who do not have room in their private driveway to park all their vehicles or tenants who do not have access to a parking area can apply for parking permits at the Borough Hall. After the application is completed, it is submitted for approval.

Permit Application Fees

- **\$25.00 per permit** if there is no room on your property to construct or add onto your driveway according to current zoning laws
- **ONLINE PAYMENT**
PORTAL: <https://wipp.edmundsassoc.com/Wipp/?wippid=0418#miscPymtPage>

Renewal of Overnight Parking Permit Application

- <https://form.jotform.com/232205537110038>