



BOROUGH OF HADDON HEIGHTS
COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, May 7, 2024, 7:00 pm

Council President Morgan called the meeting to Order at 7:00 pm. and 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:

Council President Morgan asked the Clerk for roll call.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

Council President Morgan opened Public Comment on Caucus and Agenda items only.

Seeing no movement, Council President Morgan closed the public comment portion of the meeting but reminded all there would be another opportunity to speak on any matter toward the end of the meeting.

CAUCUS WORK SESSION:

Senior Citizen Commission

Larissa Willison, a resident of Haddonfield and member of Interfaith Caregivers addressed Council along with a group of interested residents of Haddon Heights explaining they have been meeting in the Community Center on Fridays from 10 am to 12 pm to do crafts, various activities. They have been attracting 20 to 30 people and expect the group might grow. They are interested in the Borough considering creating a Senior Citizen Commission so they can apply for grants and avail themselves of County support and opportunities. Council President Morgan commented this sounds like an excellent idea. Councilman Ottoson also expressed support. Solicitor Long explained how a Commission might be created - staggered terms and a member of Council being appointed as liaison to the governing body. The group is also requesting funds by included in upcoming budgets to support their efforts.

Barbara Cortese, 325 Third Avenue – Ms. Cortese, former Mayor of Haddon Heights, commented on various issues the group has experienced regarding set up and breakdown. Clerk Santosusso responded that any concerns can be communicated directly to the Clerk’s office and the Department of Public Works can be right over to the Community Center while they are there to set up or move any items needed. She advised the group to not move heavy tables and chairs as she expressed concern for everyone’s safety.

Rose Fitzgerald, 401 E. Atlantic Avenue – former Councilwoman described the activities that were coordinated by her and volunteers in the past. She explained that at the time she was on Council, there were some funds available for various events. Clerk Santosusso commented that there were Programs during that time and there was some money available for funding activities. CFO Michael Mansdoerfer said that as the budget is being introduced this evening, there was not time to include in this year’s budget but suggested that requests be submitted to him for review and consideration of reimbursement should funds be available.

Councilman Ottoson thanked the group for coming out this evening.

Elected Officials Risk Management Seminar

Clerk Santosusso reminded Council of the training session scheduled for May 21, 2024 at 6:15 pm. Solicitor Long will administer the training prior to Council Business meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the April 16, 2024 Business Meeting

Council President Morgan asked for a motion to adopt the Minutes of the April 16, 2024 Business Meeting. Motion was moved by Councilmember Pagan, seconded by Councilmember Harron. All members present were in favor with the exception of Councilmember Russo

BOROUGH ENGINEER’S REPORT:

Craig Reilly, 304 White Horse Pike – submitted written report but will highlight the following:

Garden Street between First and Second Avenues will be out to bid this week.

NJDOT Municipal Aid for St. Martins Avenue – awaiting comments back and once received, the project will be out to bid.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL ADOPTION of Ordinance 2024:1545 – An Ordinance Amending Chapter 100 of the Code of the Borough of Haddon Heights Entitled “Vehicles and Traffic”– *One-Way Conversion on Garden Street from First Avenue to Crest Avenue*

Council President asked for a motion to open the Public Hearing on Ordinance 2024:1545. Motion was moved by Councilmember Pagan, seconded by Councilmember Russo. All members were in favor. Seeing and hearing no movement or comment, Council President closed the Public Hearing.

Council President Morgan asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance 2024:1545. Motion was moved by Councilmember Ottoson, seconded by Councilmember Harron. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted yes.

PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL ADOPTION of Ordinance 2024:1546 – Ordinance Amending the Code of the Borough of Haddon Heights, County of Camden and State of New Jersey to Include New Chapter 353, Entitled, “Privately-Owned Salt Storage”

Council President Morgan asked for a motion to open the Public Hearing on Ordinance 2024:1545. Motion was moved by Councilmember Pagan, seconded by Councilmember Russo. All members were in favor.

Seeing and hearing no movement, Council President Morgan asked for a motion to close the Public Hearing on Ordinance 2024:1542. Motion was moved by Council , seconded by Councilmember . All members present were in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

INTRODUCTION of Ordinance 2024:1547 – ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET COST OF LIVING ALLOWANCE AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

Public Hearing and Final Adoption of Ordinance 2024:1547 is scheduled for Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at approximately 7:00 pm in the Municipal Building located at 625 Station Avenue, Haddon Heights, New Jersey.

Resolution 2024:99 – RESOLUTION CERTIFYING COMPLIANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION’S “Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964”

Resolution 2024:100 – RESOLUTION FOR LOCAL EXAMINATION OF THE 2024 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Resolution 2024:101 – RESOLUTION APPROVING INTRODUCTION AND PROVIDING NOTICE FOR PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC INSPECTION OF THE 2024 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Public Hearing and Final Adoption of Resolution 2024:101 is scheduled for **Wednesday, June 5, 2024** at approximately 7:00 pm in the Municipal Building located at 625 Station Avenue, Haddon Heights, New Jersey.

Resolution 2024:102 – Resolution Amending Resolution 2024:39 Resolution Designating Depositories of Funds for Various Accounts for 2024

Resolution 2024:103 – Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute A Shared Services Agreement Between the County of Camden and the Borough of Haddon Heights for the Purpose of Street Sweeping on County Roadways

Resolution 2024:104 – Resolution Appointing Community Grants, Planning and Housing for the Purpose of Providing Affordable Housing Administrative Agent Services for 2024

Resolution 2024:105 – Resolution Authorizing a Refund of Summer Recreation Fees

Resolution 2024:106 – Resolution Calling for the Modernization of the Open Public Records Act (OPRA) and the Swift Passage of S-2930/A-4045

Resolution 2024:107 – Resolution Authorizing Payment of Bills and Claims for the First Half of May

Resolution 2024:108 – 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.) Contract Matter related to Administrative Agent Services for Affordable Housing Matters. 2.) Matter related to Redevelopment – Broken Ground Properties, 501-503 Station Avenue. Discussions are expected to be ½ hr. in duration. Formal action may be taken on the foregoing items following Executive Session.*

Council President Morgan read aloud Resolutions 2024:99 through 2024:108.

Council President Morgan announced Resolutions 2024:101, 2024:104 and 2024:106 will be added to this evening's Executive Session.

Council President Morgan asked for a motion to adopt Resolutions 2024:99 through 2024:108, Resolutions 2024:101, 2024:104 and 2024:106 excepted. Motion was moved by Councilmember Russo, seconded by Councilmember Harron. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Council President Morgan opened Public Comment on any matter.

Seeing no movement or comment, Council President Morgan closed the Public Comment portion.

Resolution 2024:101 – RESOLUTION APPROVING INTRODUCTION AND PROVIDING NOTICE FOR PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC INSPECTION OF THE 2024 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Public Hearing and Final Adoption of Resolution 2024:101 is scheduled for **Wednesday, June 5, 2024** at approximately 7:00 pm in the Municipal Building located at 625 Station Avenue, Haddon Heights, New Jersey.

Council President Morgan asked for a motion to adopt Resolution 2024:101. Motion was moved by Councilmember Russo, seconded by Councilmember Ottoson. Upon a roll call vote, all members present voted in favor.

Council President Morgan commented on the municipal portion of the overall tax increase which is 3.81% increase. Many significant cost increases, EMS Services Shared Services Agreement was 95,000 pension costs have increased by 70,000 as well as Library costs in addition to other costs increases the Borough has encountered. He went on to mention the significant number of road projects, the purchase of two police vehicles, significant cost repair of a dump truck that is now back in service. This budget reflects visible areas where tax dollars are being spent. Morgan thanked CFO Michael Mansdoerfer for all of his efforts and made specific mention of the fact that surplus has increased significantly. Large strides in improving this as it needed to be done for the financial soundness of the Borough.

Council President Morgan announced that Council will recess into Executive Session and asked all to exit Council Chambers.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: 7:37 pm

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION: 7:58 pm

Following Executive Session, Council returned to Open Session. Council President Morgan asked for a motion to come out of Executive Session. Motion was moved by Councilmember Pagan, seconded by Council President Morgan. All members present were in favor.

Council President Morgan asked for a motion to table Resolution 2024:106. Motion was moved by Councilmember Pagan, seconded by Councilmember Russo. All members present were in favor. Council President Morgan asked for a motion to table Resolution 2024:106. Motion was moved by Councilman Ottoson, seconded by Councilmember Russo. All members present were in favor.

Resolution 2024:104 – Resolution Appointing Community Grants, Planning and Housing for the Purpose of Providing Affordable Housing Administrative Agent Services for 2024

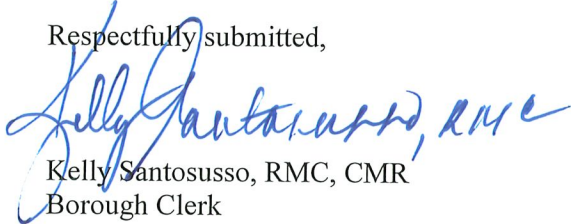
Morgan asked for a motion to adopt Resolution 2024:104. Motion was moved by Councilmember Harron, seconded by Councilmember Russo. Upon a roll call vote, all members present were in favor.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Time: 8:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelly Santosusso, RMC". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Kelly Santosusso, RMC, CMR
Borough Clerk