

AUGUST 27, 2013

The Caucus Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Runnemede was held on the above date in the meeting room of the Borough Hall, 24 N. Black Horse Pike, Runnemede, NJ. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 P.M. The following members were present at roll call: Mayor Kalvaitis. Council members: Root, Passio, Kappatos & White; Absent: Moore & Kelly; Present: Administrator Richard E. Wright, Jr.; Solicitor Jack Kennedy, Esquire; Borough Engineer Steven Bach.

STATEMENT: Council President Kappatos read the notice of this meeting pursuant to the "Open Public Meetings Act."

Council President Kappatos stated that it was now time to discuss items to be included on the agenda for 9/3/13.

The approval of minutes and the public hearings of Ordinances #13-18 were discussed.

A discussion ensued regarding a letter received from resident, Bernie Moore, about a fence permit issued to his neighbor by the construction official. Solicitor Jack Kennedy as well as Borough Engineer Steve Bach expressed their opinions as to the issue of the fence. Steve Bach informed council that this matter should be next addressed by the land use board. Councilman White raised issues of other individuals who have received similar permits. A recommendation was made that a letter be sent to Mr. Moore suggesting that he make his case to the land use board.

A discussion also ensued regarding placing a street light on Schubert Avenue. The Borough Clerk stated that she had asked a representative from PSE&G to take a look at the area and that he had called her and stated that yes the area could use a light. Councilman White stated that he did not think it was necessary. Council President Kappatos stated that the resolution to have the light installed would be on the September agenda.

Council President Kappatos also informed everyone that there would be a resolution on the September agenda to accept a donation from the Rotary Club for the music teacher's participation in the summer recreation program.

Also discussed was a resolution adjusting sewer charges and a letter approving bus stops on Route 41.

The next discussion was about reallocating funds from Hirsch Lake to Beaver Branch Park in order to finish the bathrooms. Councilman White made some statements regarding the work being done before the money was appropriated. Richard Wright, Administrator, explained that this was not the case. Rich further explained that change orders are done all the time and that is why there is always a "final change order" which addresses unforeseen issues that crop up when doing projects. Richard also reminded Councilman White that this would be the third change order on this project since the letter was received from the state about the \$500,000.00 in 2007. Borough Engineer Steve Bach reported on the bathroom floor.

Councilwoman Moore and Kelly arrived approximately 5:30 PM.

Councilwoman Kelly & Councilwoman Moore discussed their recommendations for 2% raises for the Police Chief & Captain as well as the Assistant Superintendent of Roads, the Sewer Superintendent & Assistant Sewer Superintendent. Eleanor & Beverly also recommended that an evaluation process be put in place next year. Council President Kappatos stated that the evaluation process was suggested by Councilman Root. Council President Kappatos explained that there are three types of employees and how their salaries are addressed: contractual-raises issued per their negotiated contracts, statutory-raises issued, as required by statute, according to the average of all raises given to all other borough employees & non-contractual-raises at the pleasure of council.

Councilwoman Moore also discussed some personnel changes which the Personnel Committee has been working on within the Public Works Department. Plans are to create three crews and to have Nick Ritz serve as Road Superintendent and to have John Gunn serve as Sewer Superintendent. Beverly stated that we are still fine-tuning this plan and will be addressing it soon.

Councilwoman Kelly reported on the traffic monitoring at Smith Lane and Read Avenue, the sample fire vehicle that was on display at the fire house earlier today and Fire Prevention night coming up in October.

Councilwoman Moore reported on the new dog park opening scheduled for August 31st at 10:00 AM and the new curb line painter acquired by public works. Beverly also reported on streets lights being repaired and the pouring of concrete pads for dumpsters

Richard Wright, Borough Administrator, asked council to move forward with an introduction of a bond ordinance. Various items deemed necessary to be funded by the ordinance were discussed.

Steve Bach, Engineer, asked Mayor & Council to please place two resolutions on the agenda at the September meeting-a resolution authorizing the submission of an application for 2014 State Aid for Read Avenue-Phase III and a resolution to award the contract for Read Avenue-Phase II on Tuesday after the bids are opened on August 29th.

GOOD & WELFARE:

Val Colasuonno, 831 N. Oakland Avenue: Ms. Colasuonno asked questions about tax bills, drainage issues on South Oakland Avenue and renting out Green Acres Park.

Seeing no one wishing to speak, a motion was made by Moore, seconded by Root, to close the good and welfare portion of the meeting. The motion carried and Council President Kappatos declared good and welfare closed.

There being no further business to come before Mayor and Council at this time a motion was made by Root and seconded by White to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and Council President Kappatos declared the meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM.

Approved by:


Nick Kappatos, Council President

Attest:


Joyce Pinto, Borough Clerk