

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL – BOROUGH OF RED BANK
APRIL 7, 2020
6:30 P.M.**

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Menna and Council Members Yassin, Triggiano, Ballard, Yngstrom, Zipprich and Horgan.

ALSO PRESENT: Administrator Shehady, Borough Clerk Borghi, and Attorney Cannon.

*Meeting held via video/telephone conference due to Governor's Executive Order.

SUNSHINE STATEMENT

Mayor Menna requested the minutes reflect that, in compliance with Public Law 1975, Chapter 231 (Open Public Meetings Act), notice of this meeting has been provided by notifying the Asbury Park Press, the Two River Times and the Star Ledger and by placing a notice on the bulletin board and filing same with the Borough Clerk on April 2, 2020.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PROCLAMATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRESENTATIONS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

No one appearing, Councilman Yngstrom made a motion to close the Public Comment seconded by Councilman Zipprich.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Yassin, Triggiano, Ballard, Yngstrom, Zipprich and Horgan.

NAYS: None.

There being six ayes and no nays, the motion was declared approved.

MINUTES & REPORTS

Regular Meeting minutes of 3/11/2020

Councilman Zipprich offered a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilman Ballard.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Yassin, Triggiano, Ballard, Yngstrom and Zipprich.

NAYS: None.

ABSTAIN: Horgan

There being five ayes, no nays and one abstention, the motion was declared approved.

ORDINANCES - Public Hearing/Adoption:

None.

ORDINANCES – First Reading:

None.

RESOLUTIONS

20-99 Borough Clerk Borghi read, "Resolution for Payment of Bills Amounting to \$5,204,458.37."

Councilman Ballard offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilman Yassin.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Yassin, Triggiano, Ballard, Yngstrom, Zipprich and Horgan.

NAYS: None.

There being six ayes and no nays, the motion was declared approved.

20-100 Borough Clerk Borghi read, "A Resolution Amending the 2020 Temporary Appropriations."

Councilman Ballard expressed concern about increasing appropriations during a pandemic. He said he understood it was a temporary budget that could be adjusted. He said the Borough would have very little wiggle room this year and said they should be very cautious with appropriations.

Mayor Menna said he did not disagree. He said extreme times call for extreme courage and reviewed other times of crisis the Borough had gone through. He said they should move ahead and trim and adjust and needed.

Councilman Zipprich noted that some of the crises that the Mayor had mentioned had been later in the year after the budget had been adopted.

Councilman Ballard offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilman Yngstrom.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Yassin, Triggiano, Ballard, Yngstrom, Zipprich and Horgan.

NAYS: None.

There being six ayes and no nays, the motion was declared approved.

20-101 Borough Clerk Borghi read, "A Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Current Fund Appropriation Reserves."

Councilman Ballard offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilman Yassin.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Yassin, Triggiano, Ballard, Yngstrom, Zipprich and Horgan.

NAYS: None.

There being six ayes and no nays, the motion was declared approved.

20-102 Borough Clerk Borghi read, "A Resolution Authorizing Tax Credits/Refunds Totaling \$16.49 due to Over Payment by Property Owner."

Councilman Ballard offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilman Zipprich.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Yassin, Triggiano, Ballard, Yngstrom, Zipprich and Horgan.

NAYS: None.

There being six ayes and no nays, the motion was declared approved.

20-103 Borough Clerk Borghi read, "Resolution Authorizing Resolution of the Borough of Red Bank to Refund Developer's Escrow Account Balances."

Councilman Ballard offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilman Yngstrom.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Yassin, Triggiano, Ballard, Yngstrom, Zipprich and Horgan.

NAYS: None.

There being six ayes and no nays, the motion was declared approved.

20-104 Borough Clerk Borghi read, "A Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Grounds Equipment under the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey Cooperative Purchase Agreement."

Councilman Yngstrom offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilman Zipprich.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Yassin, Triggiano, Ballard, Yngstrom, Zipprich and Horgan.

NAYS: None.

There being six ayes and no nays, the motion was declared approved.

20-105 Borough Clerk Borghi read, "A Resolution Ratifying and Confirming the Appointment of a Full-Time Police Officer."

Councilwoman Triggiano offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilman Yngstrom.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Yassin, Triggiano, Ballard, Yngstrom, Zipprich and Horgan.

NAYS: None.

There being six ayes and no nays, the motion was declared approved.

20-106 Borough Clerk Borghi read, "A Resolution Ratifying and Confirming the Appointment of a Full-Time Police Officer."

Councilwoman Triggiano offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilman Zipprich.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Yassin, Triggiano, Ballard, Yngstrom, Zipprich and Horgan.

NAYS: None.

There being six ayes and no nays, the motion was declared approved.

20-107 Borough Clerk Borghi read, "A Resolution Awarding A Contract Regarding Purchase Of Police Vehicle."

Councilwoman Triggiano offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilman Ballard.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Yassin, Triggiano, Ballard, Yngstrom, Zipprich and Horgan.

NAYS: None.

There being six ayes and no nays, the motion was declared approved.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Ballard said he had no report from his Committees but wanted to give a shout out to the employees who had kept the Borough running and for their hard work and dedication under unusual circumstances.

Councilman Yngstrom reported that the Parks & Recreation Department had started a Virtual Rec program via email. He said information was on the Borough website for anyone who wanted to sign up. He also reported that several Red Bank kids has created cards for medical personnel which would be delivered to the workers. He said a Bunny Parade would be held Wednesday and Thursday throughout the town and reviewed the schedule. He thank the Police Department for their assistance with the event.

Councilman Zipprich said RiverCenter was offering several on line presentations and reviewed the programs to be presented. He said they had also started a #Support Red Bank campaign and encouraged everyone to use Red Bank restaurants. He said the Senior Center was conducting weekly phone banks and Lunch Break had offered to assist seniors with food/groceries. He said he wanted to give a shout out to the DPW Staff for the outstanding job they had done sanitizing and getting ready to close the Borough's parks.

Councilman Yassin had no report.

Councilwoman Horgan had no report.

Councilwoman Triggiano said, on behalf of the Police & Fire Committee, she would like to thank the public for the outpouring of donations including personal protective equipment and meals. She congratulated the newly hired police officers and thanked the Department's translation program for helping to get resources and communications out. She said the organization, Backback Crew, was requesting donations for a distribution event on April 20 from 6 to 8 pm and the United Methodist Church.

Councilman Zipprich congratulated Councilwoman Triggiano for her efforts to post information on social media about organizations collecting various items for assistance.

Mayor Menna said the Public Works Department had done a Herculean job as well as all of the other municipal employees. He expressed appreciation to those that had reached out to him. He wished everyone a happy and safe holiday.

DISCUSSION & ACTION

No Discussion/Action items.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Governmental Issues, 5 Minute Limit)

J.P. Nicolaidis—said he was speaking on behalf of the Human Relations Advisory Committee and wanted to offer an update on the Census. He said it had taken a back seat during the current pandemic and noted the potential for lost resources if there was not a complete count. He reviewed the current national and local response rate. He said there was time left but wanted to make sure they continued to drive responses. He said the work had opened his eyes up to the community. He said the HRAC had produced flyers to stress that the Census would be confidential and information would not be shared with other agencies. He reviewed issues with ensuring participation from the hard to count community. He said food banks would be putting the flyers in with bags of food. He said they had been planning to mail the post cards but were looking for funding. He said other communities had been able to produce sophisticated campaigns using grant money but noted the Monmouth County Freeholders had not applied for those grants and they were no longer available. He said he was confident that, with continued effort, they could get good participation.

Boris Kofman—asked about the decision to close Borough parks. He said he had been walking in them once or twice a day and said he had not observed any overcrowding. He said he was concerned that the closure of the parks would force walkers onto sidewalks where is was harder to keep a social distance.

He urged the Council to reconsider.

Tom Wieczerszak—said he was concerned about the resolution for temporary appropriations. He called for more transparency. He said he felt there was a lot of fat in the budget and that the Council was being cavalier about \$1.7 million in appropriations. He said every other entity was cutting. He called for a spending and hiring freeze. He criticized previous tax increases and said the Borough was going to face a drop in property values and loss of businesses.

Councilman Ballard thanked him for his comments and said he appreciated the email the he had sent. He said he shared his concerns. He said he would rather build a budget based on the prior year's spending. He noted some increases were unavoidable due to factors such as contractual obligations.

Administrator Shehady said he wanted to clarify the information regarding the temporary budget. He said it was State law that, until the Borough adopted their operating budget, they had to operate under a temporary budget. He said they start at the beginning of the year with a three month budget. He said due to the circumstances of the current COVID epidemic, they were uncertain of revenues, world markets and the State budget. He said they needed to continue funding past March by resolution. He said this did not mean taxes would be raised. He said the resolution was needed so the Borough could continue to spend to make payroll and other necessities. He said the resolution should cover spending through May. He acknowledged that revenue had been negatively affected and the Council would have to review to minimize a tax increase.

Kevin Tauro—identified himself as CWA President and said he was speaking on behalf of the members. He thanked the Council for the kind words regarding the election who he said were scared and suffering from anxiety. He said he felt more should be done and said there were concerns about outbreaks at Borough Hall. He reviewed a recent incident that he had said got out of control. He said he had reached out to the town to help people become more comfortable but said he had been met with resistance. He said other towns had enacted split shifts and said not all employees were essential. He said parks had been closed at the State and County level because of the COVID virus in concern for health and safety. He said the Borough needed to protect the workers and the public. He asked the Mayor and Council to work with the Union to relieve the anxiety of the workers. He applauded the decision to close the parks and said they had to make tough choices during a health crisis. He said they needed to take care of the workers and reduced the stress level. He called for more people to work from home.

Stephen Hecht—said he was commenting on the closing of the parks. He said he had been walking every day and had encountered people on the sidewalk. He said he was amazed how careful everyone was regarding distancing. He seen people in the parks and had not observed a problem. He asked the Council to rethink the decision.

Councilman Ballard thanked everyone for commenting and said he felt it had gone well.

No one else appearing, Councilman Zipprich made a motion to close the Public Comment, seconded by Councilman Ballard.

AYES: Yassin, Triggiano, Ballard, Yngstrom, Zipprich and Horgan.

NAYS: None.

There being six ayes and no nays, the motion was declared approved.

Councilman Zipprich urged everyone to share the Census information through social media.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

20-108 The Borough Attorney read a resolution to adjourn to executive session to discuss Personnel. No action to be taken.

Councilman Ballard offered a motion to adjourn to Executive Session, seconded by Councilwoman Horgan.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Yassin, Triggiano, Ballard, Yngstrom, Zipprich and Horgan.

NAYS: None

There being six ayes and no nays, the motion was declared approved.

RESUME REGULAR BUSINESS

Councilman Zipprich made a motion to resume Regular Business, seconded by Councilman Yngstrom.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Yassin, Triggiano, Ballard, Yngstrom, Zipprich and Horgan.

NAYS: None

There being six ayes and no nays, the motion was declared approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Zipprich offered a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Horgan.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Yassin, Triggiano, Ballard, Yngstrom, Zipprich and Horgan.

NAYS: None

There being six ayes and no nays, the motion was declared approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Borghi

DRAFT