

**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL – BOROUGH OF RED BANK
MARCH 15, 2007
12:00 P.M.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Menna and Council Members Curley, Murphy, Lee and DuPont.

ALSO PRESENT: Administrator Sickels, Borough Clerk Vivona, Chief Financial Officer Mason and Assistant Attorney Hall.

ABSENT: Councilman Bifani, Engineer Kosenski and Attorney Pringle.

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 Courier, 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 March 13, 2007.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON RESOLUTIONS ON THE AGENDA AND ORDINANCES ON THE AGENDA ON FIRST READING

RESOLUTIONS

07-75 Mayor Menna read “A RESOLUTION APPOINTING MARY GRACE CANGEMI TO SERVE AS A MEMBER OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL.”

Mr. DuPont offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. Lee.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Curley, Murphy, Lee, DuPont

NAYS: None

There being four ayes and no nays, the resolution was declared approved.

Mayor Menna issued the Oath of Office to Councilwoman Cangemi and welcomed her as a Member of the Governing Body.

Councilman Curley thanked the Republican Municipal Committee for all of their hard work in selecting three names to be submitted to the Governing Body for consideration of a replacement for Councilwoman Ernst. He said Councilwoman Cangemi would be a great asset to the Governing Body and said she would represent all of the residents of the town. He said that he also wanted to thank Mr. Fitzpatrick and Mr. Tamburri for accepting the nomination. He said both of these men would also have been a good choice because they are dedicated to our community and have lived here for some time.

The remaining Members of the Governing Body welcomed Councilwoman Cangemi to the Council.

AUDIENCE

William Meyer – 12 Monmouth Street – said that he has received a number of telephone calls from people that are traumatized by their new assessments and hopes that the rate is struck by April 15, 2007 so that people will know how they are going to be affected by their new assessment and submit an appeal.

Councilman DuPont said that the date to submit an appeal is April 1, 2007.

Mayor Menna said that anyone should appeal their assessment if they feel the assessment is not correct because we do not usually strike the tax rate until June when we hear from the State about any funding they would be giving us towards our budget.

Councilman DuPont said that anyone that feels their assessment is not correct should file a tax appeal and said that our Tax Assessor had Mr. Rubenstein send out letters that he would meet with any property owner to discuss their assessment if they thought it was not correct.

Mayor Menna echoed Councilman DuPont's comments and that it is prudent to make an appointment with Mr. Rubenstein if their assessment is not correct.

Mr. Meyer said that he has tried to make an appointment and had difficulty getting in touch with them and was not successful.

Mayor Menna said that he sent a memo to Mr. Sickels to direct the Tax Assessor and Realty Appraisal to expand their hours to accommodate residents. The Mayor said that he encourages anyone that has concerns about their assessment to file an appeal before the deadline to protect their rights and they can always supplement it with numbers later.

Mr. Meyer said that there is a cost to file an appeal and thinks that these constant reappraisals are not fair.

Mayor Menna said that he agrees with Mr. Meyer and said our hands are tied because of State Statutes and that he should contact his State Legislators because our Borough Officials are bound by that date due to the current State Statutes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DuPont offered a motion, seconded by Mr. Murphy to adjourn the meeting.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Curley, Murphy, Lee, DuPont

NAYS: None

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Vivona