

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL – BOROUGH OF RED BANK
APRIL 22, 2020
6:30 P.M.**

ROLL CALL

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

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

ABSENT: Councilman Yassin (arrived approximately 7pm)

*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 December 11, 2019.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PROCLAMATIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRESENTATIONS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS ONLY)

Mayor Menna asked if anyone from the public had any comments on any agenda items noting there would be public hearings for the ordinances on the agenda for final adoption.

No one appeared.

MINUTES & REPORTS

Regular Meeting minutes of 4/7/2020

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

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None.

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

ORDINANCES - Public Hearing/Adoption:

2020-04 Mayor Menna read, “Ordinance Amending Chapter 608, Streets and Sidewalks, Relating to the Placement of Telecommunications Facilities in Public Rights of Way.”

Mayor Menna opened the public hearing and asked if anyone would like to speak.

No one appearing, Councilman Ballard offered a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Councilman Zipprich.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

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

Councilman Yngstrom offered a motion to approve the adoption of the ordinance, seconded by Councilman Zipprich.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

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

2020-05 Mayor Menna read, “Ordinance Amending Chapter 680, "Vehicles And Traffic", Subsection 680-60, "Schedule XXVI: Restricted Parking for Handicapped Persons" of the Revised General Ordinances of The Borough Of Red Bank.”

Mayor Menna opened the public hearing and asked if anyone would like to speak.

No one appearing, Councilman Ballard offered a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Councilwoman Triggiano.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

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

Councilman Zipprich offered a motion to approve the adoption of the ordinance, seconded by Councilman Yngstrom.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

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

2020-06 Mayor Menna read, “Ordinance Amending the Revised General Ordinances of the Borough to Revise Section 680-35: “Schedule I” under Chapter 680: “Parking And Traffic” to Prohibit Parking on Both Sides of the Entire Length of Ice Boat Lane, except for Three (3) Public Parking Spaces Granted by Easement from the Owner of Block 9.01, Lots 6.01 & 7.”

Mayor Menna opened the public hearing and asked if anyone would like to speak.

No one appearing, Councilwoman Triggiano offered a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Councilman Ballard.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

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

Councilman Zipprich offered a motion to approve the adoption of the ordinance, seconded by Councilwoman Triggiano.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

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

2020-07 Mayor Menna read, “Ordinance Authorizing the Acquisition of a Permanent Parking Easement Affecting Block 9.01, Lots 6.01 & 7 from the Owner thereof for the Purpose of Creating Three Public Parking Spaces on Ice Boat Lane.”

Mayor Menna opened the public hearing and asked if anyone would like to speak.

No one appearing, Councilman Zipprich offered a motion to approve to close the public hearing, seconded by Councilman Yngstrom.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

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

Councilman Zipprich offered a motion to approve the adoption of the ordinance, seconded by Councilwoman Horgan.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

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

ORDINANCES – First Reading:

2020-08 Mayor Menna read, “Ordinance Approving a Deed of Clarification of Restriction for 37 Wall Street, Red Bank, NJ 07701, also known as Block 33, Lot 2 on the Tax Map of the Borough of Red Bank.”

Councilman Yngstrom offered a motion to approve the introduction of the ordinance, seconded by Councilwoman Triggiano.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

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

Mayor Menna announced the Public Hearing would be held 5/13/2020 at 6:30 pm

RESOLUTIONS

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Menna called for a motion to approve the following resolutions by Consent Agenda:

- 20-109 Resolution for Payment of Bills Amounting to \$2,693,004.43.
- 20-110 A Resolution Amending the 2020 Temporary Appropriations
- 20-111 Resolution Authorizing Resolution of the Borough of Red Bank to Refund Developer’s Escrow Account Balances
- 20-112 A Resolution Appointing Special Law Enforcement Officer CLASS II (James K. Courtney)
- 20-113 A Resolution Appointing Special Law Enforcement Officer Class II (Andrew J. Todd)
- 20-114 Resolution Accepting the Resignation of Full Time Dispatcher Joseph Calao
- 20-115 A Resolution Authorizing the Borough Engineer to Prepare, Advertise and Receive Bids for Water and Sewer Force Accounts
- 20-116 A Resolution Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of Release and Satisfaction of Developers’ Agreement to Station Place at Red Bank, LLC for Block 42, Lots 1, 2, 2.01, 3, 4, 19, and 20
- 20-117 A Resolution Authorizing the Reduction of the Performance Guarantee Posted by Brownstones at Red Bank, LLC for Block 75, Lots 46, 47, 48.01, 53, 54.01, & 56

Councilman Zipprich offered a motion to approve the resolutions en masse, seconded by Councilwoman Triggiano.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

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

Mayor Menna called for the following resolutions to be voted on by voice vote:

- 20-118 A Resolution Accepting Bids and Awarding Contract to Lima Charlie Construction for Improvements to White Street

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

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

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

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilman Ballard said the Finance Committee had been working on the budget and that it was almost complete. He said they would be meeting the following week to review with the CFO and the Administrator. He noted the budget was a first draft and was subject to revisions. He said they would be reviewing State regulations regarding COVID 19 that may have an impact on the budget. He expressed concern about the reduction in revenues noting that this was not a “business as usual” year. He said he would have a critical eye toward spending. Regarding the Red Bank Housing Authority, he continued, he had asked the Borough’s grant writer to look into helping to find desperately need funding for the Authority. He said they had resumed their Board meetings via conference calls. He thanked the staff for their diligence in offering assistance to the residents. He said the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee had resumed their meetings via Zoom and had been reviewing this year’s Dog Days events tentatively scheduled for dates in June and August. He said they were working with the Parks & Recreation Department as well as Public Works to determine the best dates. He said the Committee was also looking into becoming a 501c3 which would provide greater latitude on fundraising. He said the Committee also continued discussions on implementing the Wildlife Initiative that would certify Red Bank as a wildlife habitat with the National Wildlife Federation. He credited Committee Member Anna Cruz with bringing the information forward.

Mayor Menna thanked Councilman Ballard for his diligence over the past couple of weeks as well as the Business Administrator and CFO and his staff. He said they were doing a Herculean job in difficult times. He said they would be working closely with State and Federal partners. He said he appreciated the efforts of Senator Menendez to obtain funding for local governments.

Councilman Zipprich wished everyone a happy Earth Day and thanked Borough employees for doing their best during the pandemic. He said he wanted to give a shout out to the Department of Public Works for all that they had done. He also complimented Councilman Yassin for underwriting the RiverCenter Gift Card program and thanked Councilwoman Triggiano for her social media presence and offering valuable information. He thanked members of the Environmental Commission for volunteering to pull weeds at Johnny Jazz Park. He commended Amy Russo of Toast for organizing a group that was raising money for health care professionals, first responders and others. He said RiverCenter was accepting check donations to go toward FLAG of Red Bank as an alternative to the organization’s GoFundMe page. He said RiverCenter had been working hard to keep Red Bank viable during this time and review their “Support Red Bank” and “Shop Local” campaigns. He reported that they had also designated customer parking spots near retailers offering curbside pick-ups. He reviewed other programs under development and thanked the organization for reinventing the way businesses were operating. He also reported that milling and paving would be underway on East Bergen Place next week. He thanked Director Reynolds and the Senior Center staff for checking on seniors to make sure they were safe and had the supplies they needed.

Councilwoman Horgan said she wanted to echo the previous comments regarding Borough staff and said they were doing a great job. She reported that the Library staff were working to keep people informed during the pandemic and said there was a page on their website that offered information on resources related to COVID 19. She said there was also a Spanish guide for the Latino population with information on how undocumented residents can get tested for COVID 19. She said the Library was also continuing remote programming including daily storytime other offerings that were posted on the Library’s Facebook page and on their website such as bingo games and a photography contest. She said the Library’s wi-fi was available to the public and could be used at the back patio while practicing social distancing or in a car parked in the Library’s parking lot. She said there was also information on the Library website about their five year plan and added that they were seeking input from the public. She noted that April was National Poetry month and said the Library was encouraging people to record their own poems or those of famous poets and send them to the Library Director.

Councilman Yngstrom reported that the Parks & Recreation Department was organizing an essential good drive and said donations could be dropped at Borough Hall for distribution to Red Bank families. He thanked the Police Department and Fire Department for their help with the Bunny Parade. He thanked the children that created more than 100 cards that were sent to thank the medical staff in Red Bank facilities. He encouraged everyone to join Park & Recreation for a virtual concert on Thursday, April 23 at 7pm. He said log in information was available on the Parks & Recreation website. He also thanked the Shade Tree Committee for holding their monthly meeting via Zoom the previous night. He thanked them for their efforts and for working to move their agenda forward.

Councilwoman Triggiano wished everyone a happy 50th Earth Day from the Red Bank Environmental Commission. She said they wanted to see how everyone was celebrating Earth Day and asked anyone posting pictures of flowers, vegetables and other plantings on Facebook to please include #RBGrows. She said the Police and Fire departments want to thank everyone for their outpouring of donations from items ranging from masks and gloves to meals for the members. She said she looked forward to thanking all of the individuals and businesses in person at a later meeting. She thanked the Fire Department for their

response to a house fire on Monday and said she hoped the family could return to normalcy as soon as possible. She also announced a new program available through the Police Department called Blue Angel. She said the program would be available to those 55 years and older or those with a medical condition that could lead to incapacitation who live alone. She said it would provide a lock box maintained by the Police Department that would contain a key to allow them access in the event of an emergency only. She said a sign up form for the program should be available on the Borough's website shortly. She also reported that she had been keeping in touch with one of the groups that had been addressing food insecurities which was the Backpack Crew. She said the most sought after items were currently cereal and shelf stable milk. She said donations could be dropped off at the back door of the United Methodist Church on Broad Street. She said she also wanted to echo what the other Council members had said noting they were thinking of all of the residents, hoped they were staying safe and thanked them for flattening the curve.

Councilman Yassin joined the meeting at 7pm.

Mayor Menna said the Blue Angel program was an extraordinary program and said this was the time to roll it out. He commended the men and women of the department for their efforts. He also noted the County currently had almost 5,000 positive cases and noted many families had suffered tragedies. He said their members had been robbed of the intimate moments of a final goodbye. He said all of the Council members and Borough employees were with them in their grief and loss. He thanked the Borough employees and volunteers for their efforts during this time and also thanked the postal workers for their continued service. He commended Governor Murphy for his resilience, determination and leadership during the pandemic. He urged everyone to stay home and practice social distancing to work to conquer the pandemic.

DISCUSSION & ACTION

No Discussion/Action items.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Governmental Issues, 5 Minute Limit)

A speaker identifying himself only as Jim refused to give his address claiming the Sunshine Law allowed him to speak.

Administrator Shehady and Attorney Cannon said he was allowed to speak but the Council was allowed to set parameters and their protocol stated he must provide his name and address.

He said his name was Jim and he lived at 1 Main Street in Red Bank. He said he had forwarded a link to the Council regarding puppy mills. He asked the Council why they allowed a puppy mill retainer to operate in Red Bank. He also asked what the Council was doing to recognize Senior high school students who were graduating this year. He also asked how much money was in the Animal Trust Fund account. He asked why the Council had not been more prepared for the current pandemic and how many employees had been infected by the virus. He also asked how they planned to address the shortfall in revenue.

Administrator Shehady noted that this was the public comment portion of the meeting. He asked if that completed his comment.

Jim said he was waiting for an answer.

Administrator Shehady he had made his comments and said the Council could respond if they chose.

Laura Kirkpatrick—Executive Director of RiverCenter—thanked the Council and Borough staff for their assistance during this time. She said she hoped they had been an assistance to the staff as well. She thanked the Council for moving forward with the White Street project and said to let them know what they could do to get information out to business, residents and visitors to town. She said they were focused on keeping visitors coming into town and supported Red Bank businesses. She thanked Council Yassin for his contribution to their gift card program which encouraged people to take pictures of their take-out meals and post them on social media. She said, at the end of the week, they chose several posts and reward them with \$50 gift cards to come back to Red Bank. She also thanked Councilman Zipprich for recognizing the Front Line Appreciation Group (FLAG) program and said they were continuing to seek donations that helped to support the restaurants in providing meals to first responders in the area.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Councilman Zipprich offered a motion to adjourn to Executive Session, 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.

RESUME REGULAR BUSINESS

Councilwoman Horgan made a motion to resume Regular Business, 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.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Yassin offered a motion to adjourn the meeting, 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.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Borghi