

**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL – BOROUGH OF RED BANK
NOVEMBER 30, 2015
6:30 P.M.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Council Members Lee, Burnham, Horgan, Schwabenbauer and Zipprich.

ALSO PRESENT: Municipal Clerk Borghi and Administrator Sickels.

ABSENT: Councilman DuPont.

Councilman DuPont joined the meeting by phone at 6:35 pm.

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 November 24, 2015.

RESOLUTIONS

Mayor Menna explained that the purpose of the Special Meeting was to consider Resolution #15-300 “A Resolution authorizing the Borough Engineer to Prepare Design Plans for the Emergency Back Up Well at Chestnut Street.” He asked if there was any comments from the Council.

Councilwoman Burnham expressed concern about entering into a contract with a firm that the Borough may not be using in the coming year. She also asked the Engineer for more details about the interest free loan.

Councilwoman Schwabenbauer said it was not actually interest free.

Mayor Menna said 75 percent of the loan would be interest free.

Councilwoman Schwabenbauer agreed and added that 25 percent would bear interest at the market rate.

Councilwoman Burnham asked if the loan would cover the design and asked if it would cover both hard and soft costs.

Engineer Ballard said it would cover design, construction and administrative costs.

Councilwoman Burnham noted the proposed cost for design was \$82,000 and asked what the cost would be to build the well.

Mayor Menna said they would not know the cost until the projects was spec'd out and it went to bid.

Councilman DuPont joined the meeting by phone at 6:35 pm.

Councilwoman Burnham suggested the Borough should try to negotiate with the Engineer for a better price on the design cost.

Engineer Ballard said that was the cost to do the project.

Mayor Menna said that was the cost estimate and there was a very short time frame to submit the application.

Councilwoman Burnham suggested the Administrator should talk to the DEP to try to get additional time and called for an operational review.

Mayor Menna said they could ask for additional time but there was no guarantee they would get funding.

Administrator Sickels reviewed the funding time line and need to get construction ready plans quickly for the March 4th deadline.

Mayor Menna added that they were highly technical plans that would have to be “shovel-ready.”

Councilwoman Burnham brought up the letter received from the DEP in February of 2015.

Mr. Sickels reviewed how the letter was received, the research that was done and the resulting need for a backup well since NJAmerican Water could no longer guarantee back up.

Councilwoman Burnham said the Borough had known for a long time and criticized rushing the work.

Mayor Menna asked if anyone from the Public had any comments.

William Meyer—12 Monmouth Street—asked clarification that the project ready plans had to be submitted by March 4th.

Administrator Sickels said that was correct.

Mr. Meyer said he felt there was enough time to take another look at it and said he was not impressed with the amount of information. He said he wanted to know the potential costs and alternatives. He asked if there had been an effort to find an alternative company to do the work. He asked if the Borough would be getting 75 percent of the cost of the well or 75 percent of the interest.

There was a discussion on the funding. Councilwoman Schwabenbauer clarified the 75 percent of the loan would be interest free and 25 percent of the loan would bear interest. She said the Borough would ultimately pay 100 percent of the cost of the well.

Engineer Ballard added that, if the application was submitted in a timely manner, the Borough could qualify for funding that included 18.75 principal forgiveness on the entire project. She said there were limited funds available on it was on a first come, first serve basis.

Mr. Meyer asked why this information had not been put out to the public in advance of the meeting.

Mayor Menna said the Committee members were all aware and added that the matter had been discussed for the greater part of the year.

Mr. Meyer asked if the work being done on Bridge Avenue would be connected to the well.

Mr. Sickels clarified that the Bridge Avenue project was a main upgrade as part of the road program. He said it was not related to the well other than the fact that it was part of the water system.

Mr. Meyer asked if it would be connected to the water system.

Mr. Sickels said it would be, just as all of the other water mains are.

Engineer Ballard said the mains on Bridge Avenue were undersized and said they had been replacing four-inch mains Borough-wide.

Mr. Meyer asked what they were being replace with.

Engineer Ballard said it was 8-inch mains.

Mr. Meyer said he assumed it had to do with development in Red Bank.

Administrator Sickels said it had nothing to do with development.

Mayor Menna said Mr. Meyer was asking if the well project was a result of development and clarified that the well project was the result of DEP regulations calling for a backup well. He said it was something that was required if the Borough wanted to maintain a water supply. He said he understood Councilwoman Burnham was suggesting that the incoming Council may want to get rid of the water supply, which he said was a legitimate argument but said they would still need a backup well.

Mr. Sickels noted that would be a two year process.

Mr. Meyer said he did not believe the Borough should sell the water supply, but suggested there should be special assessments against some of the developments because he believed they were the reason for the work on Bridge Avenue. He asked if water would be pumped from the new well only as back up service.

Engineer Ballard reviewed the DEP rules regarding back up wells including the fact that they could not operate at the same time. She reviewed the existing wells and back up wells.

Mr. Sickels said the Borough would alternate the operation to exercise the well but said they would not run at the same time.

Mr. Meyer said he would like to see more information in regard to the cost.

No one else appearing, Mayor Menna called for a motion to close public comment.

Councilman Zipprich offered a motion to close, seconded by Councilwoman Horgan.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lee, Burnham, Horgan, Schwabenbauer, Zipprich, DuPont

NAYS: None

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

15-300 Mayor Menna read "A Resolution authorizing the Borough Engineer to Prepare Design Plans for the Emergency Back Up Well at Chestnut Street."

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lee, Horgan, Schwabenbauer, Zipprich, DuPont

NAYS: Burnham

There being five ayes and one nay, the motion was declared approved.

ADJOURNMENT

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lee, Burnham, Horgan, Schwabenbauer, Zipprich and DuPont

NAYS: None

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

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela Borghi