

**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL – BOROUGH OF RED BANK
APRIL 16, 2014
6:30 P.M.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Menna and Council Members Burnham, Horgan, Lewis and Zipprich.

ALSO PRESENT: Municipal Clerk Borghi and Chief Financial Officer Poulos.

ABSENT: Councilman DuPont and Councilman Murphy.

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 13, 2014.

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Menna said the purpose of the meeting was to deal with the resignations that had been voluntarily proffered by the members of the Board of Trustees of the Red Bank Public Library. He said he did not feel it was appropriate to wait for the next regularly scheduled Council meeting to address the situation and to get the library and its staff, patrons and Board functioning. He said it was in the best interest of the residents of Red Bank to work quickly and get things back to normal. He said resignations had been tendered by John Grandits, Brigid McCarthy, Audrey Oelder, Anne Tardy, James Willis and Denelle Johnson. He noted that Patricia Moss had not been in tangent with those resignations because she had sent a letter a couple of months prior stating that she had served on the Board for many years and had wanted to be relieved of her duties. He said Councilwoman Horgan was a member of the Board and would remain so until the end of the year. He noted that the Mayor's Alternate was one of those who had resigned. He also pointed out that the Superintendent of Schools, who statutorily was a member of the Board, had been sporadically represented since the retirement of Superintendent Dr. Laura Morana. He said he would speak to the Superintendent and ask that, if the Superintendent was not available, the Business Administrator attend if at all possible.

He said there seemed to be a misunderstanding about the Mayor's presence at the Board of Trustees meetings. He said, ever since he had been on the Council, Mayor's had traditionally not attended those meetings to give the Board the opportunity to deliberate. He said the last several Mayors had not attended because they had believed in the power of the public to have the Mayor represented by an alternate and that was the tradition he had followed.

He said inasmuch as there were vacancies on the Board and the Board had to function. He said he believed the Council and the public were aware that, effective the previous Monday, there had been a retirement by the Director. He said Acting Administrator Gary Watson, after conferring with members of the Council and himself, had appointed an Acting Interim Director which was Elizabeth McDermott.

Mayor Menna made the following appointments:

Beth Hanratty as President of the Library Board of Trustees to fill the unexpired term of John Grandits to 12/31/2015.

Mary Beth Maida as a member of the Library Board of Trustees to fill the unexpired term of Brigid McCarthy to 12/31/2018.

Stephen Hecht as a member of the Library Board of Trustees to fill the unexpired term of Patricia Moss to 12/31/2014.

Sara Hansen as a member of the Library Board of Trustees to fill the unexpired term of Audrey Oelder to 12/31/2016.

He said the appointees would join the existing Trustee April Klimley whose term would not expire until 12/31/2017. He thanked Ms. Klimley for remaining at her post during these challenging moments. He said that would still leave two regular positions and the Mayor's Alternate position open. He said for the purposes of continuing a viable Board of Trustees, he would attend the meetings until an Alternate was appointed. He said the appointments being made would help the Board get on with the work of the library until the other appointments could be made. He said they could continue the positive and great

work that the Board had been doing for a century and, with positive work and positive health, would continue into the next century.

Councilwoman Horgan offered to approve the appointments en masse, seconded by Councilman Zipprich.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Burnham, Horgan, Lewis, Zipprich

NAYS: None

There being four ayes and no nays, the appointments were declared approved en masse.

Councilman Zipprich said he wanted to thank the Mayor and Councilwoman Horgan for their diligence on the matter. He said he knew that all of the members of the Council had been concerned about making sure the library situation was resolved as quickly as possible. He said he appreciated everyone being available for this meeting to make sure they keep the library moving forward. He said he knew that Councilwoman Horgan had invested an awful lot of time to stay on top of the very serious situation. He also thanked Elizabeth McDermott for stepping forward to take the helm and thanked April Klimley for being the one person standing on the Board of Trustees.

Mayor Menna said he wanted to stress to the members of the incoming Board, just as they had to the outgoing Board, that the Borough's professionals, specifically the Borough Auditor, the Chief Financial Officer, the Assistant Borough Administrator and the Administrator, were ready, able and willing to confer or render technical assistance and guidance when requested. He said the Borough Attorney would also be available to them. He said they would all offer whatever assistance to make the positive gem continue to shine.

Councilwoman Horgan said Councilman Zipprich had been very involved and said she wanted to thank him for his time. She said the entire Council had been so positive about the matter. She said one door closes and another door opens and said this was a great opportunity to move forward. She said everyone was aware that the Borough's library was a gem, that it needed to be supported, it needed to be open and it was one of the Borough's greatest resources. She said there was a new energy and it was a wonderful opportunity to turn things around. She said she thought morale had been more positive at the library in the last few days. She wished the staff and Board members well and said she was looking forward to working with them.

Councilwoman Lewis said she wanted to echo Councilman Zipprich and say thank you to Councilwoman Horgan for her time and effort on this important issue. She thanked those who were remaining and would continue to serve and also thanked those who left saying their time and service was valued. She said it was a new day and a new chapter. She said they were excited about being able to move forward with this very important resource. She also thanked her colleagues for helping to reach a compromise.

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

No one appearing, Councilwoman Lewis offered a motion to close the public comment portion of the meeting, seconded by Councilman Zipprich.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Burnham, Horgan, Lewis, Zipprich

NAYS: None

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Burnham, Horgan, Lewis, Zipprich

NAYS: None

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

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Borghi