

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL – BOROUGH OF RED BANK
JANUARY 8, 2014
6:30 P.M.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Menna and Council Members Murphy, Burnham, Horgan, Zipprich, DuPont

ALSO PRESENT: Administrator Sickels, Municipal Clerk Borghi, Attorney O’Hern and Engineer Ballard.

ABSENT: Councilwoman Lewis (arrived 6:45pm) and Interim Chief Financial Officer Lapp.

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 January 1, 2014.

SUSPEND REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS

Councilman DuPont offered a motion to suspend the regular order of business, seconded by Councilman Zipprich.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Murphy, Burnham, Horgan, Zipprich, DuPont

NAYS: None

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

Presentation to Holiday Home Decorating Winners

Recreation Director Memone Crystian introduced some young people who she said played a very important part in the Borough’s annual Holiday Home Decorating Contest called “Light Up Red Bank.” She said awards were given each year to the most festive homes. She said the Borough had been working with David Prown and Enrico Ciabattoni to coordinate the judging by some of the Borough’s youngest residents. Mr. Prown introduced the kids who served as judges. Ms. Crystian thanked the local businesses that sponsored the program and announced the winners with Third Place going to Dorothy Chippendale of Elm Place; Second Place to Christopher and Dorothy Hussey of Leighton Avenue and First Place to the Cohen Family of South Street.

Mayor Menna thanked everyone for participating and particularly the children for their help.

RESUME REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS

Councilman Murphy offered a motion to resume the regular order of business, seconded by Councilman Zipprich.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Murphy, Burnham, Horgan, Zipprich, DuPont

NAYS: None

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

WORKSHOP

T. Thomas Fortune House--Councilwoman Burnham said she would like to see a resolution passed to name February as T. Thomas Fortune month. She noted the efforts to save Mr. Fortune’s historic Red Bank home and reviewed his biography and accomplishments. She said she had a sample resolution that she had distributed and would like to see on the agenda for the next Council meeting.

Councilman Zipprich thanked her for putting the resolution forward and noted his own involvement in efforts to save the historic home including nominating it to be on the list of ten most endangered historic

places in the State of New Jersey. He asked Councilwoman Burnham to review the project in more detail and said he would be happy to move the resolution at this meeting.

Councilwoman Burnham noted that the restoration was going to take a lot of money and none of it would be coming from the tax payers. She reviewed Mr. Fortune's history in more detail. She said it bothered her that students walked back and forth to school passing the house yet they knew nothing about it. She said Mr. Fortune could serve as an inspiration to them.

Councilman DuPont added that he thought the resolution was a great thing. He said he knew Councilman Zipprich had been the lead in the effort since 2007. He asked him to elaborate on the fundraising leg of the project.

Councilman Zipprich said he had hoped Councilwoman Burnham would discuss the Save the Fortune House project including how to get involved and who the primary contacts were.

Councilwoman Burnham said if anyone wanted to get involved they could contact her, Councilwoman Horgan or Councilman Zipprich. She said they were doing outreach at the high school and also noted that there had been a recent event at the Library where Councilman Zipprich had spoken on the subject.

Councilman Zipprich noted that the house was privately owned and they were hoping someone would purchase the property with preservation in mind. He said the house was currently owned by a family that had operated a family business on the site for three generations.

Councilwoman Burnham agreed that most people associate the house with that family.

Councilman Zipprich said if anyone was aware of anyone who might be willing to purchase the property to please have them reach out. Councilman Zipprich said he would move the resolution.

Councilman Murphy asked if there was an asking price for the house.

Councilwoman Burnham said it was in negotiations.

Councilman Murphy asked if it would come off the tax rolls if it was listed as a historic site.

Mayor Menna said it would.

Councilman Murphy confirmed that restoration would be done with private funds.

Councilwoman Horgan said it would be a great educational or community center and a great asset to Red Bank because it would draw people in. She said it was not only an important part of African American History but also Red Bank history.

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS

REPORTS OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilman Murphy reported he had recently been appointed to the Finance Committee and said since the first of the year they had been working on the consolidation of garbage and had been reviewing cost estimates to compare current costs to what it would cost to have a private collection agency come in. He said he wanted to put it on the record that they had been looking for that and hoped to have numbers by the next Council meeting.

Mayor Menna said that was one of the issues that would be discussed at a meeting on Wednesday.

Councilman Murphy also reported that an antenna used for the Police and Fire Department communications had been down on Tower Hill for over a year. He discussed the importance of getting it back up and asked that it be moved along in a swifter manner. He asked the Administrator to have a report at the next meeting.

Mr. Sickels said he could provide a report at this meeting and said he had told the contractor he could proceed and that the permits would be processed accordingly. He said he had received the materials via FedEx today and that the permits would be issued the following day.

Councilman Murphy asked where they were with the footings.

Mr. Sickels said the contractor was handling that.

Councilman Murphy asked for confirmation that the permits were not being held.

Mr. Sickels said he had told him to proceed and all of the applications had been received today.

Councilwoman Burnham reported that, under the Code Committee, she had a list of six properties that she thought should be looked into.

Mayor Menna suggested she not give their addresses publicly.

She said she would not and said she reached out to Code Enforcement and asked for a status report regarding the properties. She said she would report more at the next meeting.

Councilwoman Horgan had no report.

Councilman Zipprich reported that Christmas tree pick up would continue through the second week in February. He said the Public Works Committee would be meeting the following Wednesday and the

Department's annual newsletter would be published on the website this year and hard copies would be available at Borough facilities. He said they were looking into the possibility of doing an energy aggregation review to see if they could save the Borough and residents on their annual energy bills. He said he would report more on that later.

Councilman DuPont said he wanted to follow up on Councilman Murphy's comments about sanitation and said they were not necessarily looking at privatization but were looking into outsourcing trash collection. He said Councilman Zipprich was looking into the numbers because there was the potential for a very large savings to the taxpayers. He said it would not affect service. He also noted that the ordinance authorizing the appropriation for the revaluation was on the agenda. He explained that the project would help curb the amount of tax refunds associated with tax appeals. He also said he knew there had been some requests for alcohol events in the parks in 2013 and said they had granted requests from RiverCenter because they knew that the money being raised would go back into their operating budget and to local charities. He suggested that they should make sure the alcohol events were limited to RiverCenter so there wasn't any confusion about a private entity coming in.

Mayor Menna said that was something that was on his agenda to discuss as a policy issue and said that they were coming up with a framework. He said only the ones that had been approved in the past were moving forward and there no new approvals pending. He said he believed there was a request from the Eastern Monmouth Area Chamber of Commerce that had not been acted upon.

Mr. DuPont again stated that it was his recommendation that they limit that privilege specifically to RiverCenter.

Mayor Menna said he didn't think there would be opposition but he would have to discuss it with Councilwoman Burnham as the Code Chair and Councilwoman Lewis as the Parks and Recreation Chair to come up with a policy. He also stated that they would have to have a clearly set procedure for any use of public facilities.

Councilman DuPont also noted that the new CFO, Eugenia Poulos, had been meeting with the Borough's previous and interim CFOs.

Councilwoman Lewis arrived at 6:45 p.m.

Councilwoman Lewis said she wanted to commend the Borough's DPW Department for their efforts during the recent snow event. She also asked everyone to help take care of their neighbors and the elderly, help them get in or out and to shovel snow. She apologized for missing the home decorating presentation. She thanked everyone for participating and offered the winners her congratulations.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 4, 2013

Councilman DuPont offered a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilman Murphy.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Murphy, Horgan, Zipprich, DuPont

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Burnham

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 18, 2013

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Murphy, Horgan, Zipprich, DuPont

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Burnham

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

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

By Consent Agenda:

- Acknowledge Receipt of Plaque in Recognition of the Local Complete Streets Policy.
- Request from the Red Bank Triathlon to hang a banner on Broad Street from April 21, 2014 to May 16, 2014 to advertise their event.
- Request from RiverCenter to hang a banner on Broad Street for the following dates: February 5-28, 2014 (Restaurant Week), March 3-31, 2014 (Wedding Walk), September 12-29, 2014 (Guinness Oyster Festival), September 29-October 17, 2014 (Girls Night Out) and December 1-26, 2014 (Holiday Shop Local).
- Request from RiverCenter to hang a banner on Shrewsbury Avenue from April 14-April 28, 2014 to advertise the International Flavour Festival.

- Request from the Red Bank Catholic Making Wishes Come True Club to hold the RBC Make a Wish Carnival in the St. James Catholic Church parking lot on June 7, 2014, subject to final plan approval by the Special Events Committee.
- Request from the Red Bank PBA Local #39 to hold a street fair on Monmouth Street and Broad Street on Sunday, April 6, 2014 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., approved by the Special Events Committee.
- Request from the Red Bank Community Block Party Committee to close Drs. James Parker Boulevard from Shrewsbury Avenue to Bridge Avenue to hold the Red Bank Community Block Party on August 2, 2014 with a rain date of August 9, 2014 from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m., approved by the Special Events Committee.
- Request from Vincente Gaona for membership to the Union Hose Company of the Red Bank Volunteer Fire Department.

Councilman DuPont offered a motion to approve the requests, seconded by Councilman Zipprich.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Murphy, Burnham, Horgan, Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont

NAYS: None

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

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

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

No one appearing, Councilman DuPont offered a motion to close the public comment portion, seconded by Councilman Murphy.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Murphy, Burnham, Horgan, Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont

NAYS: None

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

ORDINANCES – First Reading

2014-1 Mayor Menna read, “An Ordinance Authorizing a Special Emergency Appropriation Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:4-53(B) to Fund the Costs Associated with the Execution of a Program of Revaluation of Real Property for the Borough of Red Bank, County of Monmouth, New Jersey.”

Councilman DuPont offered a motion to adopt the ordinance on first reading, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Murphy, Burnham, Horgan, Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont

NAYS: None

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

Public hearing and final adoption to be held January 22, 2014.

2014-2 Mayor Menna read, “An Ordinance Amending the Salary Ordinance of the Borough of Red Bank.”

Councilman DuPont offered a motion to adopt the ordinance on first reading, seconded by Councilman Murphy.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Murphy, Burnham, Horgan, Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont

NAYS: None

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

Public hearing and final adoption to be held January 22, 2014.

ORDINANCES – Public Hearing & Final Adoption

None.

RESOLUTIONS

By Consent Agenda:

- 14-07 Resolution Designating the Human Relations Manager as the Certifying Agent and the Borough Treasurer as the Supervisor of the Certifying Agent in Connection with the Public Retirement System.
- 14-08 A Resolution Authorizing the Borough Treasurer to Open an Account in TD Bank N.A. and Valley National Bank and to Sign all Payroll Checks.
- 14-09 A Resolution Authorizing Creation of Change Funds.
- 14-10 A Resolution Designating Depositories for the Borough of Red Bank.
- 14-11 A Resolution Fixing the Rate of Interest to be Charged on Delinquent Taxes, Utility and Other Municipal Assessments.
- 14-12 A Resolution Authorizing the Borough Treasurer to Open an Account for Making Payments in Connection with the Redemption of Tax Title Liens.
- 14-13 A Resolution Approving Cash Management Plan.
- 14-14 A Resolution Authorizing Agreement with Interfaith Neighbors, Inc. for 2014 Nutrition Program for Red Bank Senior Center.
- 14-15 A Resolution Authorizing the Filing of a Recycling Tonnage Grant.
- 14-16 A Resolution Authorizing Change Order No. 1 Related to the Contract with Precise Construction, Inc. for the Drs. James Parker Pump Station Replacement Project.
- 14-17 A Resolution Releasing Performance Guarantee Regarding Kayvon Haghighi, 276 Broad Street, Block 101, Lot 24.
- 14-18 A Resolution Releasing Performance Guarantee Regarding Jennings, 78 Bridge Avenue, Block 40, Lot 13.01.
- 14-19 A Resolution Appointing Eugenia Poulos as Fund Commissioner and Gary Watson as Alternate Fund Commissioner to Monmouth County Joint Insurance Fund.
- 14-20 A Resolution Appointing Eugenia Poulos as Fund Commissioner and Eva Biviano as Alternate Fund Commissioner to Central Jersey Health Insurance Fund.

Councilman DuPont offered a motion to approve the resolutions, seconded by Councilman Murphy.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Murphy, Burnham, Horgan, Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont

NAYS: None

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

- 14-21 Mayor Menna read “A Resolution Honoring T. Thomas Fortune as a Distinguished Citizen of Red Bank and Declaring February 2014 as T. Thomas Fortune Month in the Borough of Red Bank.”

Councilman Zipprich made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Burnham.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Burnham, Murphy, Horgan, Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont

NAYS: None

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

PROCLAMATIONS

PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS

- 14-22 Mayor Menna read “A RESOLUTION FOR PAYMENT OF BILLS AMOUNTING TO \$3,253,759.66.”

Councilman DuPont offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded Councilwoman Lewis.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Burnham, Murphy, Horgan, Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont

NAYS: None

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

OLD BUSINESS

Councilman Murphy asked for a cell phone number for Public Works Director Watson and said he had had difficulty reaching him. The Mayor said it was a problem and it would be discussed. He said it was a personnel matter but was not the DPW Director’s issue.

NEW BUSINESS

AUDIENCE

Carl Colmorgen–67 Oakland Street–said he was unable to access the wi-fi in the room and asked who was responsible for the website. He noted that some information was on the site including dates for Court sessions and Planning Board meetings but there was no mention of Council meetings.

Councilman Murphy asked him if he had said he was unable to get on the wi-fi.

Mr. Colmoren said he needed a password.

Councilman Murphy said there was wi-fi in the room but agreed that one would need a password to access it.

Borough Clerk Borghi said she was responsible for entering the information on Council meeting dates and noted that the calendar had just officially been set at the Reorganization Meeting on January 1.

Mr. Colmorgen said that was just one issue. He also noted that the “News” section was out of date. He also noted that there had not been a new “Mayor’s Message” since September.

Mayor Menna said he was dissatisfied with the website.

Mr. Colmorgen said he was extremely disappointed in the Borough’s website.

Councilwoman Horgan said the Borough needed a full time IT person and they had been looking into it.

Councilman Murphy said it was a budgetary issue. He said the Borough use to have one and it needed to be fit into the budget. Councilman Murphy asked the Clerk to update the Council meeting dates.

Borough Clerk Borghi said she would update it the following morning.

Sarah Klempner—no address given—congratulated Councilwoman Horgan on her re-election and Councilwoman Burnham on her election. She said she was appearing on behalf of the T. Thomas Fortune Project and thanked Councilwoman Burnham for bring forward the resolution. She also thanked Councilman Zipprich for being an advocate for the house over the past seven years. She noted that a resolution had been passed in 2007 and another at this meeting in support of the preservation of the house. She said proclaiming the month of February in Mr. Fortune’s honor was appropriate because he had national significance. She said there had been an active committee for the last six months and that they had been contacted by people from across the country. She said she would be happy to answer any questions about the resolution.

Councilman Murphy asked if she was in charge of the fundraising.

She said she and Mark Fitzsimmons were co-chairs.

He asked how much they had raised so far.

Ms. Klempner said they had raised about \$4,000 and were working with the Vaccarelli family for a price they could agree on. She said if the house were to serve as a cultural or community center, it would meet a need that the town had anyway. She said, considering the historic significance of the man and his contributions to the civil rights movement, it would be a great honor to Red Bank and would increase visitors to the Borough and its status in general. She cited the Smithsonian Magazine article that said Red Bank was the number three best town in America because of cultural offerings.

Marge Lowe—9 Wall Street—noted that she used cabs regularly and had had issues with one of the local companies. She tried a second company and said they were great. She now she had been informed that that company was selling to the first company. She said she now uses a third company that only has two cars and understood they were unable to get a license for additional cars. She urged the Council to provide the ability to issue an additional license.

Mayor Menna said the Borough had received a request for a fare increase from one of the companies last year. He said he had asked the Clerk to forward copies to the Council of the existing taxi ordinance. He said there was an attempt to amend it a few years ago but it had been unsuccessful because the leading taxi company had brought several individuals to the Council meeting and it was not acted upon. He said it was time for the Council to consider revising the taxi ordinance and said he wanted any increase in fares to include betterment of service including a smoking ban, inspections for cleanliness, prominent posting of fares in both Spanish and English, an idling ban and more. He said they were also looking at how they should be regulated in regard to the number of medallions.

Councilman Murphy agreed but said the Council was limited in what they could do and said the public could help by giving their business to the better cab company. He agreed that the Council was working on improving the ordinance.

Ms. Lowe said she appreciated that and again asked the Council to consider allowing additional licenses.

Suzanne Viscomi—19 Morford Place—discussed the difficulty of obtaining a residential parking permit since it was only available in person during office hours when many people are working. She asked the Borough to consider issuing the permits through the mail if residents mail in the necessary documents or through an online system.

Councilman Murphy said the problem was that people needed to show the proper ID to receive the tag. He suggested they may be able to extend office hours but that would be a budget issue.

Ms. Viscomi said she wasn’t suggesting they stay open later. She copies of all of the documents could be scanned and emailed.

Councilman Murphy said they needed to confirm identity in person or it wouldn't be secure.

Ms. Viscomi said a copy of her license would give verification.

Councilman Murphy said they needed to confirm the resident's face to the license.

Ms. Viscomi said there were a lot of residents in her neighborhood that had been unable to get to the office to get the stickers.

Councilman Murphy asked if they had been getting tickets.

Ms. Viscomi commended the residential sticker program and said it helped with parking issues.

Councilman Murphy reviewed the details of the program and noted that they do not want to ticket residents and they only ticket in residential neighbors if there is a complaint. He said he hasn't heard any complaints in her neighborhood.

Ms. Viscomi said she agreed that the program worked. She said that was why she thought it was important to give residents the opportunity to get the stickers and suggested having evening hours on night a month.

Councilman Murphy said they would look into it but again noted that he hadn't had any complaints.

Laura Kolnoski—Colts Neck, Navesink Journal—noted that it was highly unusual for a member of the press to comment at a meeting but she said she wanted to say something about the Borough's website. She said she had been able to find information easily on the website and noted that she covered numerous towns, Boards of Education, County meetings and other agencies and said she felt Red Bank had one of the better websites. She said she has a much easier time finding information on Red Bank's website than most of the others.

Councilwoman Horgan thanked her for her comments. She said there were things that needed to be updated and said they would look into Mr. Colmorgen's comments. She also noted that the site had recently won an award.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Murphy, Burnham, Horgan, Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont.

NAYS: None

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

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Borghi