

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL – BOROUGH OF RED BANK
NOVEMBER 20, 2012
6:30 P.M.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Menna and Council Members Zipprich, Horgan, Lee and Murphy

ALSO PRESENT: Administrator Sickels, Municipal Clerk Borghi, Chief Financial Officer Lapp, Attorney O'Hern and Engineer Ballard.

ABSENT: Councilwoman Lewis and Councilman DuPont.

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 12, 2012.

Councilwoman Lewis arrived at 6:35 pm.

Councilman DuPont arrived at 6:36 pm.

WORKSHOP

BPU/JCP&L Resolution

Mayor Menna noted that there had been a lot of media attention regarding Hurricane Sandy and its impact on the area. He said a number of municipalities in Essex County had taken the leadership role to take affirmative action and request a hearing/investigation and calling for a change to the Board of Public Utilities regulations in regard to the two most critical energy providers for the State of New Jersey which were JCP&L and PSE&G. He said the resolution before the Council was a bookend of one promulgated in the aftermath of the storm by the Mayor of South Orange. He added that the Governing Body of South Orange had been substantially affected by the lack of response by PSE&G. He said the resolution takes a negative and asks for positive direction by the BPU. He said it requests that the BPU change its rules that, in the event of a State of Emergency, the utilities would be required to provide authoritative, informed spokespeople to the complainants and to provide information in the municipal building of any municipality where more than five percent of the customers were without services for more than one day. In addition, he continued, it would ask the BPU to enforce tighter standards on changes, innovations, retrofitting and information to customer bases throughout the State of New Jersey. He said it would also stress that part of the problem is not the response but the almost lack of precautionary measures, capital infrastructure improvement and capitalization of much needed resources to replace, replenish and change the infrastructure in the area which was at least 60 years old and decaying. He added that it was never designed for the population base and the uses and services required in 2012.

Councilwoman Lee asked if the utility spokesperson would link with the Borough Emergency Management Team to set up a control center at Borough Hall.

Mayor Menna said that was the point of the resolution. He noted that all municipalities were required to have an Emergency Management Office that kicked in when there was a declaration of an emergency. He reviewed how the Red Bank team had worked during the storm to coordinate efforts and disperse accurate information. He said the thing that had been missing from those meetings was a representative from the utility that could have provided much needed information.

Councilman DuPont said he thought it was a wonderful resolution that would help improve communication between the Borough and JCP&L so they could relay information to residents. He noted that lack of communication had been the biggest complaint.

Councilwoman Horgan said she thought there had been a meeting of a group of Mayors in Tinton Falls the previous night to discuss this issue.

Councilman Zipprich said he felt, from a disaster recovery standpoint, the onus should be on the Board of Public Utilities and JCP&L to make sure they have boots on the ground to manage the power outage to the Borough would not have to have the Administrator chasing after them to assess the situation. He also thanked Administrator Sickels for his efforts during the emergency.

12-224 Mayor Menna read, "Resolution Requesting that the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and New Jersey Legislature Conduct an Investigation of Information Management, Communication and Emergency Preparedness and Response Capabilities of the New Jersey Public Utilities, Specifically Jersey Central Power and Light, and Making Certain Recommendations in that Regard."

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

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

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

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Mayor Menna read a request from the Two River Theater to hang a banner on Broad Street from December 1, 2012 to December 30, 2012 to advertise their production of *A Wind in the Willows Christmas*.

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

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

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

Mayor Menna read a request from The George Sheehan Classic to hold their event in Red Bank and for use of Marine Park on the weekend of June 14-15, 2013, approved by the Special Events Committee.

Councilwoman Lee offered a motion to approve the request, seconded Councilwoman Horgan.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

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

Mayor Menna read a request from RiverCenter for free parking from Monday, December 10, 2012 through Christmas day.

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

Councilwoman Horgan said she supported the request but asked the Director of RiverCenter to urge the retailers to stay open at night adding that she had noticed last year that many were closed in the evening hours.

Councilman Zipprich agreed that it would be beneficial for the shop owners to extend their hours not only for the shoppers but also for the merchants.

ROLL CALL:

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

NAYS: None

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

Councilman DuPont left the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

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

No one appeared.

ORDINANCES – First Reading

2012-20 Mayor Menna read, “Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Chapter 490 Planning and Development Regulations, Article II, Definitions and Article X, Zoning, to Establish the Minimum Setback Required from Side and Rear Lot Lines for the Location of Standby Generators in Specified Zone Districts.”

Mayor Menna noted that this amending ordinance came about as a result of the recent emergency that saw an unparalleled need for and interest in generators. He said the Borough accommodated and expedited requests because of the emergency however they had taken a closer look and determined that there were no discernible standards regarding where the generators could be placed. He said this ordinance would set forth the criteria for the establishment of generators that would address the safety concerns for placement as well as noise concerns and setbacks.

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

Councilman Zipprich asked if the ordinance would require individuals to register their generators or seek approvals.

Mayor Menna said existing generators would be grandfathered in.

Engineer Ballard noted that the ordinance concerned permanently installed generators and would not apply to ones stored in a garage and installed on a temporary basis. She also noted that the ordinance included a requirement for a sound attenuated enclosure which would greatly reduce noise.

Councilman Murphy asked for clarification of language regarding setbacks.

Engineer Ballard noted the portions of the ordinance that had been amended and said they only applied to the addition of a generator as an accessory structure.

Councilwoman Lee asked if the generators would be considered comparable to hard wired air conditioning units. Administrator Sickels said they would be.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, Horgan, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

Public hearing and final adoption scheduled to be held December 5, 2012.

2012-21 Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Chapter 490 Planning and Development Regulations, Article II, Definitions and Article X, Zoning, to Define Adult Oriented Business as a Category of Land Use and to Permit Adult Oriented Business as a Use of the HB Highway Business Zone District.

Mayor Menna explained that the Borough already had an adult oriented zone in the highway business district which was on a portion of Route 520/Newman Springs Road that was not adjacent to residential areas. He noted that the original ordinance was implemented years ago due to some legal decisions that come up at the State. Since that time, he continued, there had been additional changes in the legal definition of “adult oriented” as well as “sex oriented” shops by both the State and Federal courts. He said many of the decisions refer to adult entertainment and sex oriented entertainment as recreational and/or retail in nature. He added that many of the court decisions set forth parameters that state such businesses cannot be within 200 feet of a church, school, playground or childcare center. He noted that there were both State and Federal Supreme Court cases that stated that a municipality shall not be able to exempt adult oriented businesses in its zoning requirements because it would be a violation of the First Amendment. He said that was why the Council had created the zone on Route 520, however, he noted that when it was done, they did not articulate what defined the uses. He said this ordinance would correct that by defining the uses according to Court approved language. He said it also specifies that these types of uses would not be permitted in areas other than that particular zone. He said it would also protect the residents and commercial districts from possible infringement by the types of sexually oriented businesses that may be permitted under the present zoning scheme.

Councilwoman Lee offered a motion to adopt the ordinance on first reading, seconded by Councilwoman Horgan.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, Horgan, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

Public hearing and final adoption scheduled to be held December 5, 2012.

2012-22 Ordinance Amending and Supplementing Chapter 490 Planning and Development Regulations, Article II, Definitions to Revise the Definition of a Professional Office.

Mayor Menna said the State of New Jersey Administrative Offices had recently issued regulations that include the field of massage therapy as licensed professionals and those that practice that art can apply to the State to be recognized as Certified Massage Therapists. He said they would then have the right to have an office like any other professional in a zone that recognized licensed professionals. He said, because the State had changed its regulations, the Borough was changing its ordinance to say that individuals that have attained the State recognized certification of profession masseuse or masseur would be able to locate in those zones that currently permit licensed professionals. He noted that a masseuse or masseur that did not have a state license would not be allowed to locate in professional zone but would have to apply in a zone that allowed personal service businesses.

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

Councilwoman Horgan asked about other changes within the ordinance the showed strike outs for certain professions.

Engineer Ballard noted that the other professions that were being removed were also not licensed by the State.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, Horgan, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

Public hearing and final adoption scheduled to be held December 5, 2012.

2012-23 Ordinance Codifying the Planning and Development Regulations of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Red Bank, County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey, by adopting Chapter 490, Planning and Development Regulations, of the Code of the Borough of Red Bank.

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, Horgan, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

Public hearing and final adoption scheduled to be held December 5, 2012.

Mayor Menna noted that all four ordinances would be referred to the Planning Board for review.

ORDINANCES – Public Hearing and Final Adoption

RESOLUTIONS

By Consent Agenda:

- 12-218 A Resolution Authorizing the Assignment of Certain Tax Sale Certificates Now Held by the Borough of Red Bank.
- 12-219 A Resolution Authorizing Refunds Due to Overpayment of Taxes Due to a Judgment of the Tax Court of New Jersey.
- 12-220 A Resolution Authorizing Transfer of 2012 Current Fund.
- 12-221 A Resolution Authorizing Change Order No. 1 Related to the Contract with Precise Construction, Inc. for the Count Basie Phase 3 Improvements.
- 12-222 A Resolution Authorizing the Storm Cleanup and Debris Removal Monitoring Services of Arcadis US, Inc. in Connection with Recovery Efforts Resulting From Damages Caused by Hurricane Sandy in the Borough of Red Bank.
- 12-223 Resolution Authorizing the Storm Cleanup and Debris Removal Services of Ashbritt, Inc. in Connection with Recovery Efforts Resulting from Damages Caused by Hurricane Sandy in the Borough of Red Bank.

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

Councilwoman Horgan noted that Resolution 12-222 and 12-223 had just been received by the Council and she asked for clarification,

Mayor Menna explained that the Borough had met with the FEMA representatives and also those from the DCA and these resolutions were necessary to move forward with the cleanup of the debris by companies that had contracts with the State of New Jersey.

Councilwoman Horgan asked if the Borough would be paying for the services.

Mayor Menna said the Borough would be paying for it but would hopefully be reimbursed by FEMA.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, Horgan, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS

12-225 Mayor Menna read, “A RESOLUTION FOR PAYMENT OF BILLS AMOUNTING TO \$8,557,388.27.”

Councilwoman Lee offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded Councilwoman Horgan.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, Horgan, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 10, 2012

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, Horgan, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 7, 2012

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: Horgan

There being four ayes, no nays and one abstention, the minutes were declared approved.

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS

None.

REPORTS OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilman Murphy had no report.

Councilwoman Lee said there had been a request during the recent storm for reading materials to be supplied to those who were displaced from the storm and sheltered at Monmouth Park. She said she received assistance from the Red Bank Public Library and the Tinton Falls Library to bring reading materials to those individuals. She said she was grateful to the citizens that donated and transported those items.

Councilwoman Horgan reported that the Red Bank Borough Education Foundation would be involved with the upcoming Art Walk where they would have a table from 5 to 9 pm at the Galleria. She said they would be selling prints, pottery and photographs as well as tote bags, note cards and raffle tickets. She said it would be a great opportunity to purchase Holiday gifts. She said the funds raised would go to the Borough Schools for science programs.

Councilwoman Lewis reported that they had had the opportunity to meet a disable veteran at the Borough recent Veteran's Day ceremony. She said noted that he had lost everything in Hurricane Sandy and said the event had been very eye opening in regard to how much support and generosity there had been. She said she had traveled to various locations including the Hazlet distribution center. She said there was still a lot of need but there was also a lot of generosity from the citizen of Red Bank and the surrounding area. She said she was very honored to be a part of this community. She also reminded everyone that, on Thanksgiving Day, Lunch Break would be serving lunch from 11:30 am to 3pm. She asked everyone who knew an elderly person or shut in to remind them that arrangements could be made to get them there to have dinner and spend time with other people. She said it was also a great opportunity to volunteer.

Councilman Zipprich reported that he had also gone to Hazlet to drop off items at the distribution center and he was impressed by the amount of community involvement and spirit of love for those displaced by the storm. He said it was a wonderful operation and said if anyone had any household goods or time to volunteer they should go to the center located at the Children's Wearhouse on Route 35 South in Hazlet. He also reported that the Shade Tree Committee had met the previous Thursday and they were working diligently to assess damages to the trees that were downed during the storm. He said they would compile a report of what would need to be done in the Spring. He thanked Public Works Director Watson and his staff for continuing cleanup efforts. He noted they had been out all weekend cleaning up brush and picking up leaves. He said they and the entire Borough staff and done an outstanding job. He then read a statement regarding the loss that had been experienced in the State. He expressed his thanks for the utility workers, continuing donations, fundraising efforts and benefit concerts as well as to the President and the Governor.

Councilman Murphy asked Councilman Zipprich if the Shade Tree Committee had had any complaints regarding trees around town that he believed were plum trees. He asked if they had received complaints about the berries that fall from the trees. He said he understood that there were two kinds of plum trees, one with the berries and one without.

Councilman Zipprich said the ones with the berries had been removed from the roster of plantable trees by the Shade Tree Committee.

Councilman Murphy also wished everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

PROCLAMATIONS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

AUDIENCE

Cindy Burnham—71 Wallace Street—thanked the Red Bank Volunteer Fire Department, the Auxiliary Police, the men and women of the First Aid Squad and anyone else who had taken the time to distribute the informational flyers and post them on telephone poles. She said they were very good and helpful at the time. She said people in her neighborhood were living in the dark both figuratively and literally. She said they had not access to information. She said she understood there had been three updates that they were unaware of.

Mayor Menna said information was updated more than three times. He said there were updates at least twice a day.

She said they were not aware of that.

Mayor Menna noted that the updates also went to cell phones.

Ms. Burnham said they had been unable to recharge their cellphones.

Mayor Menna told her there were charging stations at several Borough buildings and people were making use of them daily.

She said she had not done that and suggested that the next time the Borough distributes flyers they should be dated so people will know when they went out. She said she also thought it should be in English and Spanish. She also asked for more frequent updates. She said she thought Red Bank needed to have better coordination with its residents. She said in the case of a catastrophic event, which she said would happen again, residents could not rely on the State to take care of them but would need to rely on the town and their neighbors. She suggested the town create a citizen emergency task force.

Mayor Menna said there was already one in place called the Citizens Emergency Response Team and he invited her to join.

Ms. Burnham asked where they were during the storm.

Administrator Sickels said they were helping to hand out the informational flyers.

Ms. Burnham said she thought those were the firemen.

Mayor Menna said the CERT team assisted. He also said the Borough would have loved to have had more volunteers involved however there were State regulations that would not allow people to participate in CERT without training.

Ms. Burnham asked if they Borough could use volunteers that did not participate in CERT. She asked that one person on each street be assigned as a point person that could be notified by the police to relay message to the people on their street.

Councilwoman Lee said she thought it was a great idea but she thought that person should have the CERT training. She said the town would be compromised by putting an untrained volunteer in that position. She also stressed the need for more participants.

Mr. Sickels explained that they had used CERT participants, First Aid Squad members, families of responders and firefighters to distribute flyers. He said they had used additional volunteers and noted that when someone came forward and offered to help, they were given flyers and asked to cover a certain area such as an apartment complex. He also noted that, prior to the storm, the Borough had encouraged people to sign up for alerts including notification to their cell phones and had set up charging stations to help keep the devices charged. He said the flyers were at the charging stations and were dated and timed. He said they would be reviewing the event to see what could be done better. He noted the Borough was still in storm mode and was picking up debris, sending paperwork to FEMA, etc. He said the Borough would take her comments under consideration but said the Borough had made use of every available asset it had including people who volunteered.

Ms. Burnham said, in her area, nobody knew anything and they gathered together to see what was going on. She said it would have been nice to have had someone with authority to come and tell them the status of repairs. She said twelve days was a long time to go without power.

Mayor Menna said he agreed.

Ms. Burnham said she wanted to let the Council know that the Chairman of the Garden Club of New Jersey's Community Gardens Committee had awarded the Red Bank's Community Garden \$1000 as part of a Specialty Crop Block Grant from the New Jersey Department of Agriculture. She said the presentation would be made at the New Jersey Flower and Garden Show at Raritan Center on February 17. She said they were able to qualify for the grant because of the sponsorship of Navesink Garden Club of Red Bank and the efforts of Kathleen Panepinto who wrote the grant application. She asked Ms. Panepinto to come forward and offer details.

Kathleen Panepinto—10 Alexander Drive, Middletown—said the grant ultimately came from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and she was happy that it was filtering down to Red Bank.

Mayor Menna thanked her for her efforts.

Nancy Adams—RiverCenter—thanked the Council on behalf of the business district for the approval of the free parking request. She said she also wanted to make them aware that a new campaign had begun the previous day which included a billboard on the Garden State Parkway and an ads in New Jersey Monthly and Inside Jersey

magazines. She also noted that the annual tree lighting would be the following Friday which would also be the kick off the window decorating in the business district featuring a Hollywood movie theme. She outlined other holiday activities planned in the district.

Paul Cagno—65 Wallace Street—said the resolution regarding the utilities sounded great. He asked for clarification regarding the five percent figure.

Mayor Menna said it would be triggered if five percent of the customer base in a municipality was without power. He said they felt that was a reasonable number. He gave the example of an outage that had occurred earlier in the day after an emergency on Central Avenue where a truck had hit some lines leading to mass outages in that area. He said they immediately reached out to JCP&L and they had reacted quickly to get it fixed. He said they resolution would not address an issue like that, but was for a substantial part of the customer base affected such as five percent.

Mr. Cagno asked if the ultimate affect was to have someone from JCP&L on the ground in the Borough.

Mayor Menna said that was the request of the municipalities and noted that it was not just an issue of communicating to residents, but also the fact that officials, including the Emergency Management team, were handicapped because there was very little information to give.

Mr. Cagno said he thought it would be a good idea to coordinate with a resident on each street to survey their neighborhood to help inform them of issues.

Mayor Menna spoke of the efforts of Administrator Sickels to help provide the most credible information to JCP&L including drawing up maps to show the trouble points with pinpoint precision. He said the Borough also offered to assist JCP&L by offering a police cruiser, public works truck and/or Fire Department pumper to back them up as they worked. He said they had trouble coordinating with JCP&L and noted that every time a crew came in they had to be re-acclimated. He said that was why it would be beneficial to have someone on the ground.

Mr. Cagno asked if that was what they were hoping to accomplish with the resolution.

Mayor Menna said it was.

Mr. Cagno asked if the resolution would force JCP&L to take action.

Mayor Menna said they were not asking JCP&L to do anything but were joining with other municipalities to ask the Board of Public Utilities to have hearings on what went wrong and suggesting this as a remedy. He added that they were asking the BPU to build it into the structure of their regulations. He said they were also asking State Legislators to put some teeth into their power and to introduce legislation that would enable the BPU to do it. He noted that many of the legislators had been very supportive during the storm and he was hoping they would be equally supportive after the dust settled.

Mr. Cagno said he thought Mr. Sickels had said they could use more volunteers.

Mr. Sickels said they could always use more volunteers, however, they need to have trained volunteers. He said they responded to every power line down and transformer explosion to determine the problem but noted that there were live wires at these scenes. He stressed the importance of every resident reporting their outage. He noted that JCP&L responds based on the number of customer reports received for an area. In regard to volunteers, he said they could always use more.

Mr. Cagno said it would have been helpful to send out a notice to call a public meeting for residents and noted that they had done that in other towns. He said many would have been able to offer various services and questioned the need to have everyone certified.

Mr. Sickels said he had not stated that all had to be certified but had said they had made use of them when it made sense. He said one of the problems was that, during an emergency, they would have to commit trained people to deal with untrained people and they did not have those resources. He said they cannot train volunteers at the time of the emergency.

Mr. Cagno said many of them had special skills that could have been used but may not have been certified. He again called for a notice of a public hearing in a facility that had power.

Mayor Menna said it was a point well taken and said they would bring it to the table when they reviewed..

Kathleen Gasienica—110 Locust Avenue—said they should view the event as an opportunity to look back and see where they can improve. She told the Council of a website called recovers.org that was started after a tornado and offers a template of how to respond to a disaster and was based on community volunteering. She said there were a lot of opportunities for community involvement that could support the emergency responders and gave examples.

Steven Hecht—135 Branch Avenue—said he was a participating member of the CERT team. He said he wanted to let the speakers know that that was the place for them also. He said there was minimal training required. He said people needed to feel they were getting information and the biggest thing they heard when they were distributing flyers was gratitude for the information. He said the CERT application was on the Borough's website and urged everyone not to wait until there was a problem to get involved.

Mayor Menna noted that during the emergency a group from a local club with many members who did not live in Red Bank said they wanted to participate in CERT. He said they had agreed to sign up and help out in the future. He said there were no barriers to participation regarding age, location, sex, etc.

Councilman Murphy commended the efforts of the Fire and Police departments as well as the CERT members. He noted that with all the transformer explosions and road closures, there were no fires and no fatal accidents. He said they had done a stellar job. He also commended Mr. Sickels efforts to help coordinate with the utilities to expedite repairs. He again said, a lot of people do not realize what went on behind closed door, but said the Borough had done a great job.

Administrator Sickels commended the individual JCP&L workers who came to help and gave specific examples of the efforts of some of those individuals including the heroic efforts of one individual in the emergency that occurred on Central Avenue that morning.

Councilman Zipprich spoke of the amount of coordination between the Emergency Response Team, the first responders including Fire, Police and Public Works. He said many did not realize that they were the individuals on the ground risking their lives during the storm to make sure everything was being taken care of. He said it was an incredible experience to watch the teamwork. He complimented the members of the CERT team which he said represented people from all parts of town who took flyers and went through the town on foot to make sure that their neighbors in the community were well informed. He also noted that the Borough Clerk and Police Chief had made sure that information went out to those who did subscribe to the Borough’s C3 alert system. He noted that the lack of power and having some cell towers down, impeded the Borough ability to get information out but said the efforts of the CERT members helped make sure we reached as many members of the community. He said he encouraged anyone who got a flyer to share the information with their neighbors. He thanked the residents for the patience and their willingness to pull together.

Councilwoman Lewis said the Parks and Recreation Department had also been instrument in working to get Lunch Break and the Salvation Army together to set up a joint operation where people could get food and clothing. She said everyone in Borough Hall had come together to make sure that our community was taken care of. She said they may not have had power, but there was a lot of spirit and a lot of love.

Councilwoman Lee said everyone had attested to the fact that if people step out of their door and get involved with their community they will know more. She urged everyone to get involved. She thanked everyone for their suggestions and thanked the staff, Council members and organization within the Borough for their efforts.

Mayor Menna said he had looked back over the challenges the town had had and said he was thankful that there were no fatalities or serious injuries in Red Bank. He said there were inconveniences but everyone was still alive and had each other. He said all of the Departments and employees rolled up their sleeves and did it joyfully without complaint. He said elected officials were in and out of Borough Hall and kept in contact and offered to help. He said he was grateful that the Council had allowed him to appoint Tom Welsh to the Office of Emergency Management. He said Mr. Welsh had revitalized the office and said he had been instrumental in the fact that the Borough had done so well with the challenges. He said tonight they had tried to solve an issue with the utility companies and had listened to the public. He said they would take the suggestions and comments and look to do better. He reiterated his pleasure with the service of Mr. Welsh and said the appointment was the right person at the right time noting that he remained calm throughout the event.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, Horgan, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Borghi