

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL – BOROUGH OF RED BANK
MARCH 14, 2012
6:30 P.M.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

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

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

ABSENT: Councilwoman Lee

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.

SUSPEND REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Horgan, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

Mayor's Wellness Campaign

Councilman DuPont reviewed the history of the Mayor's Wellness Campaign in Red Bank. He introduced Melissa Kostinas who serves as Executive Director of the New Jersey Mayor's Wellness Campaign. He said it came to his attention that a Borough's Wellness could affect the bottom line. He said for every healthy borough employee, the Borough could save approximately \$1,500. He said he met Melissa in Belmar, which had been designated a "Healthy Town," and became interested in bringing the program to Red Bank. He offered several reasons why he felt Red Bank would be a good fit and reviewed the actions that Red Bank had already taken to participate in the initiative. He said for every \$1 invested in the Wellness Program, the Borough could save \$3 in health costs. He noted that the Borough's health insurance was going up 22 percent and added that he felt the program could save the Borough money in the long run while helping the employees to get healthier. He reviewed a recent newspaper article that focused on the Borough's efforts to reduce obesity including the schools' Health Kids Program, as well as programs at the YMCA and the Parker Health Clinic. He said an added benefit in participating in the Mayor's Wellness Campaign, besides providing a healthier Mayor and Council and healthier Borough employees, was the ability to apply for grants and save on health insurance. He talked about the importance of weight loss and exercise and issues with diabetes. He asked the Mayor to form a committee that could set up the Campaign and noted that it could include already existing events. He said he would like to encourage a weight loss campaign for the Mayor and Council and another for employees and would offer \$100 in Red Bank dollars out of his personal funds to the most successful person in each group. He said it would be measured in percentage of weight lost rather than pounds.

He asked Ms. Kostinas to explain the Campaign. Ms. Kostinas noted that there was grant money available to help fund the type of contest Councilman DuPont described. She stressed the importance of having a team and suggested possible members. She reviewed the program and noted they currently had over 300 participating towns. She also reviewed the criteria to be named a "Healthy Town." She presented information on suggested programs including a walking program led by the Mayor and suggested the town apply to be designated as a walking town. Councilman DuPont said he thought this was a goal the town could easily achieve especially considering the Borough's recently adopted Bicycle/Pedestrian plan. He also called on representative of the YMCA and RiverCenter, who were in attendance, to participate as members of the Mayor's Wellness Committee.

Ms. Kostinas offered an overview of the Mayor's Wellness Campaign organization, some of the notable participants and some events that the group had supported.

Councilman Zipprich said it was a great program that helped increase awareness of childhood obesity, diabetes and high blood pressure. He said he thought the program was a great opportunity that would tie in nicely with the borough's Bicycle/Pedestrian plan.

Councilman DuPont thanked Ms. Kostinas, said she did a wonderful job and was well prepared and well versed. He said he agreed with Councilman Zipprich that obesity and diabetes were very prevalent in today's society and said he hoped the committee would agree to have the first line of attack be a focus on the issue of diabetes. He said he had met a Locust Avenue resident who was a trainer and life coach whose name was Rick Ivone. He said Mr. Ivone was a diabetic and a spokesperson for the disease. He noted Mr. Ivone had expressed his willingness to be a part of the Committee and asked him to come forward and talk why it was important to make the Borough's first line of attack diabetes.

Mr. Ivone noted he was diagnosed in 1987, at the age of 27, as a Type I diabetic. He discussed the disease and how it had affected him. He said it was a global epidemic including children. He noted the difference between Type 1 and Type 2. He discussed the need to change behaviors and the way the Mayor's Wellness Campaign could teach, educate and lead the effort.

Mayor Menna thanked him for sharing his story.

Councilman Zipprich said he was inspirational and said it fit in with the First Lady's "Let's Move" program. He said it was important to raise awareness and to raise a new generation of kids that were aware of their diet and activity levels.

Councilman DuPont called on Mayor Menna to form a committee and suggested Mr. Ivone, as well as representatives of RiverCenter and the YMCA to be participants. Mayor Menna said there would be a committee in place before too long and asked any residents who wanted to serve to contact the Clerk. He said he would consider changing his format of community meetings with the Mayor to walks with the Mayor. He also said he would meet Councilman DuPont's pledge of \$100 to the winner of the weight loss challenge.

Councilwoman Lewis said the Parks and Recreation Department would like to be a part of the campaign.

Library Proclamation Presentation

Library Board Member Brigid McCarthy appeared and reviewed the history of the Library, its building and the Eisner family. She discussed the year long celebration of the Library's anniversary.

Mayor Menna thanked Ms. McCarthy for her efforts and also thanked the Friends of the Library organization for their work.

Mayor Menna read the Celebrate 75 Years at the Eisner Memorial Library Month Proclamation Presentation and presented it to Ms. McCarthy.

2012 Proposed Budget Presentation

Councilman DuPont said the Finance Committee had been working on the budget since December and asked CFO Lapp to present the information. Ms. Lapp said the tax rate would be .532 and noted that last year's rate was .509. She said that represented a 2.3 cent increase which translated to \$94 increase for the average borough property. She said the increase was due to tax appeals, increased insurance costs and contractual increases. She said overall the budget was up by 4.2% which was within the CAP. She said one cent equaled \$224.000 and noted that the Public Hearing would be on April 25, 2012.

Councilman DuPont said he would be attending a Health Insurance Fund meeting because he said the Borough had received a almost 22 percent increase with no justification. He said he agreed with a recent editorial that called for reforms in Health Insurance. He noted in the past the HIF had managed increases and the Borough had received refund checks. He question the increase noting that the employees were paying more into their insurance and that claims had gone down.

He said there was good news in the budget in that pension costs had gone down \$76,000 and there was an increase in construction permits. He also noted that the lack of snow over the past winter had also had a positive impact.

Mayor Menna thanked Councilman DuPont, the members of the Finance Committee, CFO Lapp and Audit Kaplan for their work. He noted that it was a work in progress.

Councilman DuPont said at the next meeting he would announce the date for the Budget Presentation where the public could meet with Department Heads.

2012-5 Calendar Year 2012 Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14).

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Horgan, Murphy

NAYS: None

There being five ayes and no nays, the ordinance was declared adopted on final reading.

Public hearing and final adoption scheduled to be held March 28, 2012.

12-49 A Resolution to Utilize the Three Year Average Method in Computing the Reserve for Uncollected Taxes.

Councilman DuPont commended the staff of the Finance Department for their efforts and noted that collections had increased.

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Horgan, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

12-50 A Resolution Authorizing Introduction of 2012 Municipal Budget.

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Horgan, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

Public hearing and final adoption scheduled to be held April 25, 2012.

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Horgan, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

Mayor Menna called for a motion to change the order of business to consider the ordinances for Public Hearing.

Councilman DuPont offered a motion to change the order of business, seconded by Councilman Murphy.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Horgan, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

ORDINANCES – Public Hearing and Final Adoption

2012-2 Mayor Menna read “AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE SALARY ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK.”

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

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Horgan, Murphy

NAYS: None

There being five ayes and no nays, the public hearing was declared closed.

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Horgan, Murphy

NAYS: None

There being five ayes and no nays, the ordinance was declared adopted on final reading.

2012-3 Mayor Menna read “A BOND ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF A FIRE TRUCK FOR THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$1,100,000 THEREFOR; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OR BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES OF THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF UP TO \$1,045,000; MAKING CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS AND COVENANTS; AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN RELATED ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOREGOING.”

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

Susan Visconti—23 Arthur Place—said she was not against the purchase of the truck but was against the way it was being funded. She compared the purchase to a credit card bill and suggested the town put fund aside rather than incur debt and interest.

Mayor Menna explained how Capital Purchases worked and said they were unable to reserve that type of payment. He said it was more logical to bond over 20 years or the life of the truck. He also noted they were able to borrow at an extraordinarily low rate. He said it was a specialized piece of equipment and expensive. He said the bond would have the least impact. He also noted that the Borough had been fortunate to have excellent CFOs. He said he appreciated the patience of the firefighters. He said Capital interest payments had remained flat because they had waited for other items to come off the payment schedule so it would not affect the tax base.

Councilman DuPont noted that the Finance Committee had a lengthy history of forming a Capital Project Plan. He said the truck was in that plan. He said they expected debt to come off and said the Fire Department had worked with the town and agreed to extend the purchase an extra five years to 25 five years.

Councilman Murphy noted that the State had required replacement every 20 years and when budgets started getting tight, they extended it to 25. He said he understood what Ms. Visconti was saying but didn’t know if the town could hold funds aside. He also noted that the Finance Committee watched what was coming off the payment schedule and prepared for the purchase of the firetruck. He also noted the excellent rate the Borough received on bonds.

Steven Hecht—135 Branch Avenue—asked for clarification that it was not possible to set the money aside. Mayor Menna said it was possible and that it would be maintained in surplus but that it would not make sense when the town could borrow at two percent or less. He said the surplus would not earn interest and, if they had that type of surplus, they would rather return it to the taxpayers by reducing operating expenses. He noted that the surplus was for unexpected emergencies and cited recent examples such as last year’s storms.

Councilman DuPont said they had increase the surplus by over 50 percent from last year through cost savings and agreed with the Mayor that the bonding was a business decision.

Mr. Hecht agreed that it made sense and thanked them for explaining.

CFO Lapp noted that one of the reasons towns have the ability to capitalize large purchase was because it was the intent that the people that would benefit from the purchase should be the ones should be the ones paying the debt. She said if they set money aside before the purchase, the burden was place on people who may not be around to see the improvement or purchase.

Joyce Calabro—North Prospect—asked what would happen to the existing trucks. Mayor Menna said it would be replacing a 25 year old aerial. He said based on what had been done in the past, upon delivery of the new truck they would reach out through trade journals, etc. seeking institutions that may be interested in purchasing the old truck. He said they had been successful in selling trucks in the past but noted that it wouldn't be a lot of money. He said they were sometime purchased for parts. He also noted that there were liability issues with the old truck because it no longer met OSHA standards.

Ms. Calabro asked if equipment on the current truck would be moved to the new truck. Administrator Sickels said that it would and offered specifics.

Councilman DuPont offered a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Councilman Murphy.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Horgan, Murphy

NAYS: None

There being five ayes and no nays, the public hearing was declared closed.

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Horgan, Murphy

NAYS: None

There being five ayes and no nays, the ordinance was declared adopted on final reading.

WORKSHOP

RiverCenter Kiosks—Nancy Adams and Margaret Mass appeared to present plans for three information kiosks. She said one would be placed by their office in English Plaza and two would be place at the NJTransit property. She noted that they have been working with Riverview Medical Center who had been gracious enough to sponsor the first two kiosks. She showed a sample of the kiosk design.

Mayor Menna said members of the RiverCenter district from the west side wanted to know when the parking signs would be up. James Bruno of Powerhouse Signworks described the signs and said described the work that was currently being done.

Councilman DuPont asked if a resolution was needed. Mayor Menna said he thought the report was informational and told Ms. Adams that RiverCenter had the Council's blessing to move forward.

Rent Leveling Board—Mayor Menna reported that he had attended a meeting of the Board and said they had voted to amend the ordinance including changing the review schedule from five years to two years. He said it would be introduced at the next meeting and then it would be sent back to the board for comments. He said it would not require a vote by the board because they had already voted on it.

Shaping Red Bank—Sandra Van Sant of the Monmouth County Regional Health Commission and Andrea Plaza of the YMCA appeared to discuss the program. Ms. Van Sant said the MCRHC had received a grant from Robert Wood Johnson to develop a childhood obesity prevention program. She said they had two objectives. She said one was to improve the nutritional status of Red Bank residents and the second one was to try to get people moving. She noted that it segued nicely with the Mayor's Wellness Campaign. She said they were working with stores on the west side with a program called Healthy Pick that would label foods that were a healthier choice and by offering tip cards to the customers. She also reviewed a plan for a one mile walk loop that would include both of the Borough's water front parks. She asked the Council to consider placing a sign in the Northeast corner of Marine Park.

Mayor Menna said he would leave the matter to Councilwoman Lewis to coordinate. He also asked Nancy Adams to send out an email blast to the business community to publicize the walk.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 22, 2012

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Horgan, Murphy

NAYS: None

There being five ayes and no nays, the minutes were declared approved.

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS

None.

REPORTS OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilman Murphy had no report.

Councilwoman Horgan reported that the Red Bank Human Relations Advisory Committee, along with the Borough Schools, would be sponsoring an Anti-Bullying and Cyber-Bullying event in the Middle School Auditorium the following Thursday, March 22, at 6:30 pm. She said the presentation would be facilitated by Richard Shinn from the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office. She also reported that the Environmental Commission had met the previous night and were continuing with their ANJAC Anti-Idling Grant. She said the kick off would be on April 22 from 1 pm to 4 pm at the Middle School. She said there would be a planning meeting on March 27 at 7:30 pm. She said the Commission also unanimously voted to approve the current Community Garden proposal. She also reported that the Red Bank Boys and Girls Club would be hosting a fundraiser on Wednesday, March 28 at the Cheese Cave which would be a six course wine and cheese tasting. She also reported that the Red Bank Borough Education Foundation would be selling black bags that featured artwork from Red Bank students.

Councilwoman Lewis said the Parks and Recreation Council Committee had met on March 4 to discuss and review the 2012 budget. She said she also wanted to remind parents to sign their children up for spring Parks and Recreation activities. She said was excited about Parks and Recreation being able to team up with some the initiatives discussed.

Councilman Zipprich reported that on Monday he had spoken at the Holocaust Center at Brookdale College as part of the "It Gets Better" project and the topics of bullying, harassment and intimidation. He said his co-speaker had been Dave D'Amico of the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office. He said Mr. D'Amico had talked extensively about how to reduce hatred and the incidents of teen suicide. He said, in regard to the Department of Public Works, he wanted to report that Monmouth County had awarded the contract for pedestrian and roadway improvements on County Road 10/West Front Street. He thanked Engineer Ballard for her work on the project. He said the Borough had advertised for bids on the 2011 Road Program and noted the project include an extension of the Monmouth Street streetscape as well as road improvements for Peter's Place, Drummond Place, Boat Club Court and St. Nicholas Place. He noted that they hoped to start work in April.

Councilman Murphy asked if the work on Front Street would include the reworking of the traffic signals and the crosswalk for Riverview Hospital. Councilman Zipprich said that it would.

Councilman DuPont said he would like to submit the Shaping Red Bank plan to the Mayor's Wellness Campaign for consideration as the Best Walking City designation.

Mayor Menna reported that he had participated in a Press Conference with Senator Beck earlier in the day regarding the New Jersey Natural Gas issue. He said it went very well and noted there would be statutory introduction the next day at the New Jersey Senate. He said he was thankful for the legislators that were willing to champion the issue. He also noted that New Jersey Natural Gas had filed a lawsuit. He said the Borough was going to meet them in court and said he felt Red Bank was doing the right thing and hoped other municipalities would follow suit.

He also reported that he met with the new Acting Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs who congratulated Red Bank on many of its initiatives and openness on Affordable Housing issues. He said he invited him back to view the State funded Cedar Crossing project. He said he anticipated having a good relationship with the new commissioner. He said Commission Sampson had been kind enough to

present a flag and certificate on behalf of the Port Authority of New Jersey. He said the flag had been flown over the World Trade Center.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Mayor Menna read a request from the Red Bank Charter School for use of Riverside Gardens Park, the concession building and lavatories for their eighth grade graduation ceremonies to be held on Wednesday, June 13, 2012 with a rain date of Thursday, June 14, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., approved by the Special Events Committee.

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: DuPont, Lewis, Zipprich, Horgan, Murphy

NAYS: None

There being five ayes, the request was declared approved.

Mayor Menna read a request from Riverview Medical Center for the Council for a Pink Yoga Flash Mob to perform on White Street on Sunday, May 6, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. as part of the Paint the Town Pink Kick-Off Event , approved by the Special Events Committee.

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: DuPont, Lewis, Zipprich, Horgan, Murphy

NAYS: None

There being five ayes, the request was declared approved.

Mayor Menna read a request from James Bruno for membership to Relief Engine Company of the Red Bank Volunteer Fire Department, from Ivan Harris and Michele Maybaum for membership to the First Aid & Rescue Squad of the Red Bank Volunteer Fire Department and from Patrick McSorley to transfer his membership to Liberty Hose Company of the Red Bank Volunteer Fire Department.

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: DuPont, Lewis, Zipprich, Horgan, Murphy

NAYS: None

There being five ayes, the request was declared approved.

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

Marjorie Lowe—9 Wall Street—told the Council about Middle School student Elijah Gray who had started an Anti-Bullying group.

The Mayor said they were aware.

Ms. Lowe asked about a parking space across from the movie theater and firehouse on White Street and asked that it be removed to help elder patrons access.

Councilman Murphy noted that Ms. Lowe had requested a crosswalk be placed in the location and he had asked Public Works Director Watson to look at it. He said he had not received the report back.

Mayor Menna said there would be a liability issue and noted that they would not be able to place a crosswalk in the middle of a block as per State law.

She said she was not necessary asking for crosswalk but was asking if the space could be removed.

ORDINANCES – First Reading

2012-4 Mayor Menna read “A BOND ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS TO AND THE ACQUISITION OF CAPITAL EQUIPMENT FOR COUNT BASIE PARK (PHASE III) IN AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY; APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$2,110,500 THEREFOR; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OR BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES OF THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY IN THE AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF UP TO \$1,604,490; MAKING CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS AND COVENANTS; AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN RELATED ACTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOREGOING.”

Mayor Menna noted that the bonding was contingent upon Red Bank Catholic and the County providing funding.

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Horgan, Murphy

NAYS: None

There being five ayes and no nays, the ordinance was declared adopted on first reading.

Public hearing and final adoption scheduled to be held March 28, 2012.

RESOLUTIONS

By Consent Agenda:

- 12-51 CDBG Block Grant Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to Execute a Project Agreement with Monmouth County for Performance and Delivery of FY 2012 Community Development Projects.
- 12-52 A Resolution Awarding Contract to Visiting Nurse Association to Provide Public Health Services.
- 12-54 A Resolution Authorizing Cancellation of Uncollectable Taxes.
- 12-55 A Resolution Authorizing Cancellation of Uncollectable Taxes.
- 12-56 A Resolution Urging the Reconsideration of the Closing of the James J. Howard Marine Sciences Laboratory at Sandy Hook.
- 12-57 A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Sign a Certification Prohibiting the Use of Excessive Force and a Certification Prohibiting the Use of Federal Funds for Lobbying.

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Horgan, Murphy

NAYS: None

There being five ayes and no nays, the resolutions were declared approved.

- 12-53 A Resolution Authorizing the Execution and Entry into a Phase 2 Developer’s Agreement between RW @ River’s Edge, LLC and the Borough of Red Bank.

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, Horgan, Murphy

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: DuPont

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

12-58 A Resolution Authorizing Tax Refunds Due to Tax Appeal Judgments.

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, Horgan, Murphy

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: DuPont

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

PROCLAMATIONS

PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS

12-59 Mayor Menna read “A RESOLUTION FOR PAYMENT OF BILLS AMOUNTING TO \$2,746,012.14.”

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: DuPont, Lewis, Zipprich, Horgan, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman Zipprich asked what the procedure would be to rename a section of Shrewsbury Avenue after the late “Johnny Jazz” Ralph Gatta. Mayor Menna noted it was a County Road and would require approval of the County. He added that, if they only designated part of it as a place, it would not be considered renaming the street. Councilman Zipprich named other recent dedications but Mayor Menna noted all of the examples were Borough streets and suggested they approach the County to see what the requirements would be.

AUDIENCE

Steve Hecht—135 Branch Avenue—asked about the criteria for items being placed on a consent agenda. Mayor Menna said there was no firm criteria and noted that the Council received the agenda in advance and if anyone wanted something taken out they can remove it and vote on it independently.

Mr. Hecht also asked what the tax refund amount was in regard to Resolution 12-58. Councilman DuPont said it was approximately \$60,000 for a total of eight tax appeals.

Laura Dardi—Environmental Commission—told the Council the Commission was working on an Anti-Idling Campaign and said they had invited students the Red Bank Middle and Charter schools to be part of a logo submission contest. She asked if it was possible to have the winner recognized at a Council Meeting.

He said absolutely and asked her to let him know. He said they would be happy to do it.

Barbara Boas—135 Branch Avenue—said she wanted to thank two people. She said she wanted to thank the Administrator for finally getting the benches in and asked if some had not yet been sold. Mr. Sickels said that was the case. She suggested an advertising campaign. She said she also wanted to thank the Chief of Police for his leadership. She told a story of an officer that had stopped to assist her mother in getting from the car into her house.

Police Commissioner Murphy said he would relay the message to the Chief and reviewed a new program that the Chief had put in place that had officers going into businesses and walking around more.

Mayor Menna also thanked the Police Commissioner and said it was a breath of fresh air to not hear “we can’t do it” and instead hearing “how can we do it.”

Administrator Sickels also told a story of a neighbor who had recovered stolen property returned to him before he even realized it was gone as a result of a quick arrest.

Joshua Sanders—Fire Chief—thanked the Mayor and Council on behalf of Navesink Hook and Ladder and the Red Bank Volunteer Fire Department for the approval of the truck.

Cindy Burnham—146 Harrison Avenue, Fair Haven—said a Community Garden would fit in with the Mayor’s Wellness program. She said they were going everything possible to get the garden started and noted the group had recommended two sites.

Mayor Menna said the first site had already been acted upon and the second site involved Marine Park which the town had just spent \$2.5 million to upgrade and noted it was the most heavily used park in the Borough. He added that 100,000 to 150,000 people were expected to attend RiverFest. He said he personally did not feel that was an ideal site for a Community Garden. He said the Council was committed to a Community Garden and there were a number of other possible locations.

Ms. Burnham said they had checked the other locations.

Councilman DuPont said he had spoken with Ms. Burnham and recommended a Borough owned lot on Berry Street.

Ms. Burnham asked about the process of having an item place on the agenda.

Mayor Menna said Councilwoman Horgan could make the request but if it was for the previous location, he did not anticipate a different outcome.

Councilwoman Horgan asked that the request be placed on the next agenda.

Ms. Burnham said the Farming Engineer would not be available and asked if the Council would accept letters from him.

The Mayor said they would.

Councilman Murphy questioned if there was a “Farming Engineer” qualification.

Mayor Menna offered to carry the matter over to the April 11 meeting but Ms. Burnham said they would prefer to have the matter heard on March 28.

There was a discussion regarding the Community Garden in Fair Haven. Councilwoman Horgan asked Ms. Burnham to review the Berry Street location.

Kathleen Gascienica—110 Locust Avenue—said she could offer new info regarding the previously requested location and asked for the Council to compromise and allow them to use the lot for one year. Councilwoman Horgan asked what purpose that would serve. Ms. Gascienica said they were seeking visibility for the first year and noted the easy accessibility for nearby apartment dwellers.

Mayor Menna asked about the issue of participants, particularly the local apartment dwellers, moving after one year. She said they would hope to find a place not that much different from the first location.

Councilman Murphy asked for the name of the Farming Engineer. Ms. Gascienica said his name was Tony Sloan. Councilman Murphy asked if she could provide his resume. Mayor Menna said he didn’t think it would be necessary. Councilman Murphy said he was questioning the matter because he had previously identified himself as an arborist and now he was being called a Farming Engineer.

Ms. Gascienica reviewed other Community Gardens and stressed the importance of location for the first year. She again spoke of her desire to have it at the previously requested location.

Anne Jones—62 Peters Place—reiterated the need for a Community Garden and also asked about using an area near Maple Cove. She asked the Council to approve a location at this meeting rather than waiting.

Administrator Sickels noted that the group had still not dealt with the issue of how the plots would be allocated. He said that needed to be addressed. He also noted that they had not submitted a plan or even a sketch.

Ms. Jones asked if the group came to the meeting with the specifics, would approval be possible.

Mayor Menna said they would discuss it.

Ms. Jones asked what else they should bring.

Mayor Menna should bring whatever they would like to provide.

Engineer Ballard noted that the Maple Cove location may have issues that would require DEP permits.

Stuart Jensen—92 McLaren Street—thanked the Council for approving the Bond and said he had been impressed by the proceedings. He said he was also a boater and asked about the Borough's Boat Slip Lottery. He asked if there was a way participants in good standing could renew without going back into a lottery.

Councilman Murphy also recommended moving the date of the lottery to earlier in the year.

Administrator Sickels said he thought there may have been a three year commitment in the agreements.

Mr. Jensen said he was suggesting an option to renew each year.

JoAnne DeNapoli—28 Riverside Avenue—said she was speaking on the Community Garden. She said there was no where for people in her building to garden and said she thought it would be great to have a garden they could walk to. She said she worked for Riverview and spoke of the benefits of a garden. Mayor Menna said there was an ideal lot owned by the Meridian Corporation that was formerly a funeral home.

Ms. DeNapoli said the Council had mentioned the Boys and Girls Club and suggested they would be participating. Councilwoman Horgan said she was on the Board had never heard it discussed.

Councilman Murphy again asked for a resume for the Farming Engineer and said he didn't see how it would be a problem. He said it would help put the Council at ease to know they were dealing with a professional.

Laura Dardi—63 Oakland Street/Environmental Commission—questioned the request when the Mayor had said he was comfortable with the matter and said they were putting the man on trial.

Councilman Murphy said he just wanted to put the Council at ease.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: DuPont, Zipprich, Horgan, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Borghi