

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL – BOROUGH OF RED BANK
AUGUST 10, 2009
5:30 P.M.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

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

ALSO PRESENT: Administrator Sickels, Deputy Borough Clerk Borghi, Attorney Pringle, Assistant Attorney Hall, Engineers Ballard and Kosenski and Chief Financial Officer Mason.

ABSENT: Councilwoman Horgan and Borough Clerk Vivona.

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 Courier, 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, 2009.

SUSPEND REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

09-204 Mayor Menna read “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BUDGET AMENDMENT NO. 2.”

CFO Mason explained that this amendment included four grants and \$40,000 from the Riverview Medical Center payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT). He also noted that the Borough had anticipated a savings of about \$23,000 from changing Health Department services providers, however, he noted, the Borough decided to stay with the existing provider. He added that there was also a reduction in the Fire Department budget of \$4,000 and a line for Construction Code fees was being moved from inside Cap to outside Cap as per the State’s review.

Mayor Menna asked if anyone from the audience wished to address the Council on this resolution.

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

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

Mayor Menna said there would be a full public hearing including all amendments on August 24, 2009 at 7:30 pm.

RESUME REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

WORKSHOP

RiverCenter's Main Street NJ Application

Councilman Zipprich reported that RiverCenter has applied for a Main Street New Jersey Grant that is administered through the Department of Community Affairs, Smart Growth Division. He added that they had requested local merchants and RiverCenter members to write letters in support of their application. He also gave some background on the program and reviewed its benefits. Mayor Menna said he thought everyone was familiar with the program and asked Councilmembers if they had any questions. He also said they would get the appropriate support letters out to the DCA.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 27, 2009

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Menna appointed Jennifer Chirco to the Planning Board as an Alternate No. 1 for a 2-year term expiring 12/31/10 and Barbara Boas to the Planning Board as an Alternate No. 2 for a 2-year term expiring 12/31/09.

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

REPORTS OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilman Murphy had no report.

Councilwoman Lee had no report.

Councilwoman Lewis reported that the Parks and Recreation Committee had met on the 5th of August and the three items discussed were the Boys and Girls Club lease which is being finalized, the Council Basie Field turf project including funding and next steps and the Sunset Avenue incinerator removal and development of a recreation area.

Councilman Zipprich reported that the Shade Tree Committee is working diligently on updating their page for the new website. He said they are also adjusting and updating the tree inventory. He noted that they have also reported damaged trees to the Borough Engineer and Public Works and they wanted to compliment and commend the DPW staffers who have responded quickly to their requests. He also reported that the Historic Preservation Commission had been engaged in plan review with several architects involved in projects affecting both the renovation of residences in the Washington Street Historic District as well as the Downtown Historic District. He added that the Commission had found a glitch in the system and are working with Administrator Sickels and the Construction/Building Department to make sure the HPC is notified before permits are issued as they pertain to homes in the Washington Street Historic District. He said they are also researching the possibility of getting NJTransit to stabilize our historic train station as it is falling into serious disrepair and the Borough Engineer has been very cooperative in assisting with research in that endeavor. He reported that the Code Enforcement/Building Department has seen an increase in revenue through July. He added that the Building Department reports a \$42,000 increase over the period ending July 31, 2008. He said he wanted to thank the Code Enforcement team for their responses for the emergencies that have been encountered over the last week and he said he also wanted to thank Red Bank's first responders, particularly the Fire Department. Lastly, he reported, the Citizen's Advisory Committee for the State Plan Endorsement Process met on the 3rd of August to review responses to the RFP that the Borough had issued. He said their recommendation was to reject the proposals for professional planning services for completion of the municipal assessment component of the State Plan Endorsement Process.

Councilman DuPont reported that the Borough got word today that it will receive no state aid and noted that the Finance Committee did not budget for it and did not anticipate it so it will not affect the budget whatsoever. He also noted that they had reduced operating expenses this year by \$100,000 and that the budget was less than one percent. He added that ninety percent of that was from an increase in pension costs and Social Security. He said through efficiency, as well as everyone putting their heads together, the work force has been reduced. He noted that everyone is wearing a number of different hats. He noted that they have been accumulating information regarding a reduction in expenses as a result of the four day work week. He said, while they haven't gotten all of the utility information, he estimated that the savings would be between \$15,000 and \$30,000 per year. He also reported that a number of people had told him they would like to volunteer for various activities in the Borough and he had directed them to the website. He also noted that Councilman Zipprich had proposed the idea of having interns especially in regard to helping us maintain our website. He said there was an ordinance on tonight for first reading that had been discussed at the Finance Committee level.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Mayor Menna read a request from the residents of Elm Place to hold a block party on September 26, 2009, pending approval of the Special Events Committee.

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

Councilman DuPont thanked Administrator Sickels for the application form and said that it made the process a lot easier.

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

Mayor Menna asked if anyone from the audience wished to address the Council on any resolutions or ordinances on the agenda first reading.

Mayor Menna noted that there were a number of Planning and Development ordinances listed on the agenda that were listed for public hearing and final adoption. He said they remained on the agenda because they had been advertised for a public hearing for this evening and anyone who wanted to comment was welcome to do so, however, he noted, the Planning Board had not had a chance to review the ordinances yet. He said the Board would be entertaining public comments and making recommendations to the Mayor and Council at their next meeting. He noted that the Mayor and Council would not be taking any action on the ordinances other than to carry them to the next meeting.

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

ORDINANCES – First Reading

2009-44 Mayor Menna read "A BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS TO COUNT BASIE PARK, BY AND IN THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY (THE "BOROUGH"); APPROPRIATING \$1,125,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$795,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF."

Mayor Menna said the bond ordinance was for a project that had been talked about for many years regarding Count Basie Field and that it would result in a massive improvement to the field and adjacent areas. He said if the project moves forward it may result in a brand new field due in part to participation and contributions by several stakeholders.

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

Public hearing and final adoption scheduled for August 24, 2009.

ORDINANCE – Public Hearing and Final Adoption (Rescheduled Pending Planning Board Review)

Mayor Menna asked if anyone from the audience wished to address the Council on any of the Planning and Development ordinances on the agenda for public hearing.

No one appearing, Councilman DuPont offered a motion to carry the public hearing and final adoption on the below listed ordinances to the August 24, 2009 meeting pending Planning Board review, seconded by Council Murphy.

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| 2009-25 | AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER XXV, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, SECTION 25-2.3, "DEFINITIONS. |
| 2009-28 | AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER XXV, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, SECTION 25-9.12, "COMMERCIAL RECREATION FACILITIES. |
| 2009-29 | AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER XXV, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, SECTION 25-10.3, "USES PERMITTED AND PROHIBITED. |
| 2009-30 | AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER XXV, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, SECTION 25-2.3, "DEFINITIONS" AND SECTION 25-8.21(o), "OFF STREET PARKING, MINIMUM OFF STREET PARKING SPACES REQUIRED. |
| 2009-31 | AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER XXV, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, SECTION 25-10.4, "REGULATIONS CONTROLLING THE RA RESIDENTIAL ZONE DISTRICTS"; SECTION 25-10.5, "REGULATIONS CONTROLLING THE RB RESIDENTIAL ZONE DISTRICT"; SECTION 25-10.6, "REGULATIONS CONTROLLING THE RB-1 RESIDENTIAL ZONE DISTRICT"; SECTION 25-10.7, "REGULATIONS CONTROLLING THE RB-2 RESIDENTIAL ZONE DISTRICT"; SECTION 25-10.8, "REGULATIONS CONTROLLING THE D RESIDENTIAL ZONE DISTRICT"; SECTION 25-10.15, "REGULATIONS CONTROLLING THE PO PROFESSIONAL OFFICE ZONE DISTRICT"; AMENDING THE SIDE YARD SETBACK REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO AIR CONDITIONING UNITS. |
| 2009-34 | AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER XXV, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, SECTION 25-10.9, "REGULATIONS CONTROLLING THE NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS DISTRICTS"; SECTION 25-10.15, "REGULATIONS CONTROLLING THE PO PROFESSIONAL ZONE DISTRICT"; ELIMINATING LODGES, CLUBS AND FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS AS PERMITTED USES IN THOSE TWO ZONE DISTRICTS. |
| 2009-35 | AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER XXV, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, SECTION 25-10.16, "USE REGULATIONS CONTROLLING THE WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT" RESTRICTING PERMITTED USES ALONG RECTOR PLACE TO DETACHED SINGLE FAMILY DWELLINGS AND MODIFYING SIDE SETBACK REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO AIR CONDITIONERS FOR DETACHED SINGLE FAMILY DWELLINGS. |
| 2009-36 | AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER XXV, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, SECTION 25-2.3, "DEFINITIONS"; SECTION 25-10.9, "REGULATIONS CONTROLLING NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS DISTRICT" RELATING TO CERTAIN COMMERCIAL CHANGES OF USE." |

2009-39 AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER XXV, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, SECTION 25-10.2, "DESCRIPTION OF DISTRICTS" AND SECTION 25-10.22, "REGULATIONS CONTROLLING THE TRAIN STATION OVERLY DISTRICT.

2009-41 AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER XXV, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, SECTION 25-8-19(l), "MULT-FAMILY DWELLINGS – RECREATION.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

There being five ayes and no nays, the ordinances were declared carried, pending Planning Board review.

ORDINANCES – Public Hearing & Final Adoption

2009-27 Mayor Menna read "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE LEASING OF CERTAIN CAPITAL EQUIPMENT BY THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK, NEW JERSEY FROM THE MONMOUTH COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY AND THE EXECUTION OF A LEASE AND AGREEMENT RELATING THERETO."

Mayor Menna opened the public hearing and asked if anyone would like to speak, no one appearing he closed the public hearing.

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

2009-42 Mayor Menna read "BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING BOND ORDINANCE NUMBER 2006-32 FINALLY ADOPTED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL ON JUNE 12, 2006 ENTITLED, "BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE CONVERSION AND DEVELOPMENT OF MUNICIPALLY OWNED LAND INTO A WATERFRONT PARK, BY AND IN THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEWJERSEY (THE "BOROUGH"); APPROPRIATING \$230,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$218,500 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE BOROUGH TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF", TO INCREASE THE APPROPRIATION THEREIN BY \$370,000 AND TO INCREASE THE AUTHORIZATION OF BONDS OR NOTES THEREIN BY \$133,000 TO FINANCE PART OF THE ADDITIONAL COSTS THEREOF."

Engineer Ballard reported that this would amend the bond ordinance to include the grant that the Borough had already received and the cost for demolition which the Borough had applied to DEP and EPA for a joint venture for 100 percent funding/reimbursement of those demolition costs. She noted that they had received a letter from the DEP recommending that the Economic Development Authority cover the full 100 percent.

Mayor Menna opened the public hearing and asked if anyone would like to speak, no one appearing he closed the public hearing.

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Lee, 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 as amended, seconded by Councilman DuPont.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

2009-43 Mayor Menna read “AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER XX, WATER AND SEWER, SECTION 20-4.10, “PROHIBITED DISCHARGE INTO SEWER SYSTEM” AND SECTION 20-5, “PENALTIES.”

Mayor Menna opened the public hearing and asked if anyone would like to speak, no one appearing he closed the public hearing.

Councilwoman Lee offered a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

Councilwoman Lee offered a motion to adopt the ordinance on final reading as amended, seconded by Councilman DuPont.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

RESOLUTIONS

09-200 Mayor Menna read “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF SIDEWALK CAFÉ FOR FRANK TALK ART BISTRO & BOOKS.”

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

09-201 Mayor Menna read “A RESOLUTION REJECTING PROPOSALS SUBMITTED FOR PROFESSIONAL PLANNING SERVICES FOR COMPLETION OF THE MUNICIPAL ASSESSMENT COMPONENT OF THE STATE PLAN ENDORSEMENT PROCESS.”

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

09-202 Mayor Menna read “A RESOLUTION DETERMINING THE FORM AND OTHER DETAILS OF NOT EXCEEDING \$3,160,000 AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS, SERIES 2009, OF THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY, AND PROVIDING FOR THEIR SALE TO THE NEW JERSEY ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE TRUST AND THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY PURSUANT TO THE 2009 NEW JERSEY ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE TRUST FINANCING PROGRAM.”

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

09-203 Mayor Menna read “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF LOAN AGREEMENTS TO BE EXECUTED BY THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY AND EACH OF THE NEW JERSEY ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE TRUST AND THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, ACTING BY AND THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF AN ESCROW AGREEMENT AND A CONTINUING DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT, ALL PURSUANT TO THE 2009 NEW JERSEY ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE TRUST FINANCING PROGRAM.”

Mayor Menna explained that this was part of the application that was made to improve and upgrade our water and sewer system. He said the application was made earlier this year to the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust Fund, through DEP. He noted that the Borough would have to sign enabling agreements with respect to that funding so they would be able to fund the project.

Councilman DuPont noted that it would enable Red Bank to get some of the stimulus money.

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

09-205 Mayor Menna read “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION TO THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH FOR A MUNICIPAL OPEN SPACE GRANT FOR COUNT BASIE PARK.”

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Menna read a proclamation proclaiming August 18, 2009 as Broadway Diner Day in honor of their 50th Anniversary.

Mayor Menna read a proclamation proclaiming August 21 & 22, 2009 as Dr. Donald Warner Weekend in recognition of his being honored as a “Hometown Hero” by the Count the Children Movement.

Mayor Menna also noted that there would be a dedication of a portrait of the late Norma Todd by the Board of Trustees at Lunch Break on the following Friday. He noted that Councilman DuPont would be representing the Council as he would be out of town and the Council President would be out of state.

He also reported that the long awaited dedication for a Count Basie Statue at the Train Station had been scheduled for that week and asked Assistant Administrator Gary Watson for confirmation. Mr. Watson said

the date had to be changed. Councilman Murphy asked if the statue had been donated. Mayor Menna said it had been donated years ago and had been waiting for a permanent home.

PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS

09-207 Mayor Menna read “A RESOLUTION FOR PAYMENT OF BILLS AMOUNTING TO \$4,862,027.17.”

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman DuPont reported that recently the DEP had passed a recycling enhancement act and that gave municipalities grants for their recycling programs and suggested the Borough pursue some of those grants. He said he was proud of the Public Works Department and felt the Borough was on the forefront with their recycling program. Mayor Menna asked Public Works Director Gary Watson to follow up on the suggestion.

Councilman Zipprich reported that August 3 through September 19 the Red Bank Public Library would be hosting a display on Red Bank’s National Landmark entitled “Hidden African American History in Red Bank, the Legacy of T. Thomas Fortune, Militant Defender of Human Rights in the Post-Reconstruction Era. He added that several distinguished historians would be present including our own George Bowden. He said there would be a reception on August 19 from 6 to 9 pm at the Library.

AUDIENCE

George Bowden – 12 Hubbard Park and Chairman of the Historic Preservation Commission – presented a letter from the Commission urging the Council to take action to encourage NJTransit to make much needed repairs to the historic Red Bank train station. The letter noted the historic value of the building and accused NJTransit of, what the committee termed, “demolition by neglect” adding that if the building was allowed to further deteriorate, NJTransit would have no choice but to tear it down. The commission also asked that a citizen committee be formed to look into the issue.

Mayor Menna thanked Mr. Bowden and said the Council, residents and visitors shared his thoughts. He also noted that NJTransit had exclusive authority of the building and property. However, he continued, in light of the comments, he said he would encourage the Council adopt a resolution at the next Council meeting directed to the NJTransit Board of Directors as well as the Executive Director. He added that he did not think there was a need for a citizen committee, because he felt the Historic Preservation Commission did an adequate job in expressing the Borough’s interest in the matter, bringing it to the attention of the Mayor and Council and making recommendations. He pointed out that NJTransit had historical consultants on their staff to review properties the organization owns in terms of historical content. He said he thought the Council should bring the urgency of the request to the attention of NJTransit by way of resolution and should request a meeting at the highest possible level in the near future.

Councilman DuPont suggested the Council consider the resolution as part of the meeting currently underway.

Attorney Pringle said he was recusing himself since the Council was considering taking action on the matter.

09-206 Mayor Menna read “A RESOLUTION PETITIONING NJ TRANSIT TO DETAIL A RESTORATION PLAN CONCERNING THE IMPROVEMENT AND THE UPGRADE OF THE RED BANK TRAIN STATION.”

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

Councilman DuPont noted that the train station was a gateway to Red Bank.

Councilman Zipprich again reported that Engineer Ballard has been doing extensive research on other programs the Borough may be able to apply for to further encourage NJTransit to move forward with the restoration.

Val DeFazio – 56 Tower Hill Avenue – said he had been to a number of other towns in the area and noticed that they had both garbage and recycling receptacles in their business districts. He asked why Red Bank didn't have that.

Councilman DuPont said he knew that it had been discussed and that it would alleviate the need for Public Works employees to separate the recyclables from the regular trash.

Councilwoman Lee said Public Works Director Gary Watson had informed her that he had been working with RiverCenter to look into proper receptacles for the downtown area. She said they had reviewed different types of receptacles.

Mr. DeFazio also expressed concern about the Front Street crosswalks near the hospital and near the Elks Club. He spoke of the difficulty people had crossing and noted his personal experiences where he would stop for pedestrians but no other vehicles would. He stressed the dangers involved at the crossings and asked that something be done to improve safety.

Councilman DuPont suggested "yield to pedestrian" signage and stronger enforcement.

Mayor Menna spoke in favor of more four way stops and agreed with the "yield to pedestrian" signs. He said he had been looking at several traffic calming issues throughout the Borough. He said while you couldn't have a police officer on every corner at all times, he felt enforcement was key.

Councilman Murphy said he would like to see all pedestrians directed to cross at the traffic light. He expressed the difficulty drivers face with angles of the sun, paying attention to the traffic signal and pedestrians entering the cross walk. He acknowledged that the crosswalk was a legal crossing but said it might be easier if pedestrians crossed at the light.

Mr. DeFazio said that the crosswalks were completely worn out and needed to be repainted.

Mayor Menna noted that the town had the complete cooperation of both RiverCenter and Riverview Medical Center. He said they realized they had to contribute to making the situation safer and said they would be fully supportive of whatever the Borough came up with.

Councilman Zipprich noted that it was state law that vehicles must come to a complete stop when a pedestrian was in a crosswalk and said it was a matter of educating the public.

Mayor Menna noted that it was not just the Front Street area but also on Shrewsbury Avenue where he said the traffic counts were enormous. He said that was a good thing because it meant there was a lot of commercial activity on Shrewsbury Avenue, but also a lot more pedestrians. He said the Borough has to create a climate where people learn they have to slow down and stop for pedestrians.

Councilman DuPont offered a motion to close the audience portion of the meeting, seconded by Councilman Murphy.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

09-208 The Attorney read a resolution to adjourn to executive session to discuss contract negotiations and property acquisition.

Councilman DuPont offered a motion to adjourn to executive session to discuss personnel and contract negotiations, seconded by Councilman Murphy. Minutes to be made public in 180 days.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

Councilman Zipprich offered a motion to adjourn from executive session, seconded by Councilwoman Lewis.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Lewis, Zipprich, DuPont, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Borghi