

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL – BOROUGH OF RED BANK  
NOVEMBER 24, 2008  
7:30 P.M.**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Mayor Menna and Council Members Cangemi, Giannell, DuPont, Horgan, Lee and Murphy.

ALSO PRESENT: Administrator Sickels, Borough Clerk Vivona, Assistant Attorney Hall, Engineer Kosenski and Chief Financial Officer Mason.

ABSENT: Attorney Pringle

**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, 2008.

**SUSPEND REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS**

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

**ROLL CALL:**

AYES: Cangemi, Giannell, DuPont, Horgan, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

08-240 Mayor Menna read “A RESOLUTION APPOINTING ELLEN CIOK AS A DEPUTY COURT ADMINISTRATOR.”

Mayor Menna noted that Ms. Ciok has performed all of her duties and performed the task beautifully, has been approved by Judge Lawson, the assignment Judge, has been recommended by Judge Hintelmann and is currently working in our court staff and there is a need for the appointment. He also noted that this will confirm what her role currently is.

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

**ROLL CALL:**

AYES: Cangemi, Giannell, DuPont, Horgan, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

**RESUME REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS**

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

**ROLL CALL:**

AYES: Cangemi, Giannell, DuPont, Horgan, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

## **WORKSHOP**

### **Plastic Bag Ordinance**

Councilman DuPont said, in the spirit of cooperation, he was asking that the ordinance be forwarded to the Environmental Commission as well as the Education Committee, to develop an educational program that implores residents to bring reusable cloth bags, to have a rewards program for merchants to promote the use of reusable bags and to encourage the recycling of plastic bags.

Mayor Menna said he thought it was a great idea and, unless there was an objection, it would be forwarded to the Environmental Commission for a report that he thought would be received before the next Council meeting. He noted that the proposed ordinance said that those who will be giving out plastic bags will create a place where one can return them so they can assist in the recycling chain. He said he thought it was consistent with the testimony we have heard and it made a lot of sense. He said he also thought the reward program was a good idea.

Councilman DuPont said he also thought the Education and Technology Committee should also make a recommendation as to language in regard to the educational programs.

Councilwoman Cangemi said the educational program was already in place. She said she thought it was a great idea to keep discussing it and keep moving it forward. She added that the Environmental Commission has already discussed the idea of taking bags back in where they are given out and liked it very much. She said the only push-back they got from RiverCenter was that if some people didn't have a location big enough to have a bin for the bags, they wanted the option of putting up a sign noting they would take them back and would store them on site. She said, with that amendment, she was sure the Environmental Commission would be leaning toward that and RiverCenter would be supportive of it. She said she had spoken with Mr. Watson about the lack of a dry place to store them and we now have a shed at the recycling yard.

Councilwoman Lee reported that Mr. Watson had started an initiative to place recycling bag containers at local dry cleaners. She said this will allow for collection of the most recyclable of the recyclable plastic bags, which she noted are the dry cleaning bags. Councilwoman Cangemi noted that they are also the bags with the heaviest weight.

Councilman DuPont thanked the Council members for their comments and suggestions. He said he thought they were all on one team moving forward and he would just like to finalize with some comments from the committees.

Mayor Menna said he didn't see any reason this couldn't be acted upon at the first meeting in December and finalized at last meeting in December. He said if they do anything this year, it has to be done over two meetings, otherwise it fails.

Councilman Giannell asked if they could look at plastic bottles also. Mayor Menna noted that we already recycle those. He noted that was true but asked if they could be included in this ordinance because, he said, plastic is plastic. Councilwomen Cangemi, Horgan and Lee all noted that they were different types of plastic. Councilwoman Horgan also noted that they were included in the curbside recycling program that is already in place. She said she would call a meeting of the Education and Technology Committee. Mayor Menna said he would like to see it on the agenda for the first meeting in December so they can "put it to bed" at the second meeting.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 13, 2008**

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

### **ROLL CALL:**

AYES: Cangemi, Giannell, DuPont, Horgan, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

## **MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS**

Councilman Murphy said the Police Department received a grant for body armor to switch out their vests which have a life expectancy of five years. He said they get the grant every year and they will replace three vests this year.

Councilwoman Lee said she had no report.

Councilwoman Horgan said she wanted to report that the New Jersey State League of Municipalities had its annual meeting in Atlantic City last week and she had attended a series of workshops that they had had on all different aspects of municipal government. She said she sat in on a series of green initiatives and noted that one of the interesting things was a new program called Sustainable New Jersey which is funded by Walmart. She said Walmart is going to fund \$200,000 in grants for a program for New Jersey municipalities. She said the grants will be between \$10,000 and \$20,000 per municipality and noted that in January there will be a toolkit on their website explaining what needs to be done to apply for these. She said it looks like something they can use to introduce a lot of green initiatives such as a general audit. She noted that that was one of three or four workshops that she had attended and she thought it was worthwhile for local officials.

Councilwoman Cangemi said she had no report.

Councilman Giannell said he had no report.

Councilman DuPont reported that the Economic Summit that the Mayor will be holding is scheduled for January 27, 2009 at 7:00 pm and the Count Basie Theatre has offered to hold it at their facility. He said he had met with the Executive Board for RiverCenter and they are excited about it. In regard to the Community Center, he said he had had the opportunity to meet with the Committee as well as one of the bidders, which was the Boys and Girls Club of America.

He said, as an addition to the report he had previously given, he wanted to note that there were two bids. He said one was from the YMCA that said they would run our programs for a contribution of \$88,000 per year. The Boys and Girls Club of America, he said, have offered to do it for free. He added that since he had trouble understanding some of the proposals of the Boys and Girls Club of America, he sat down with their representative, Mr. Taylor, to make sure the offer was for real. He said Mr. Taylor assured him it was and noted that it was subject to a lease or some other agreement that has to be ratified. He thanked the Committee as a whole and noted that they worked hard on this. He said they got a very good proposal from the Boys and Girls Club of America and the Committee as a whole is recommending that the Mayor and Council consider the Boys and Girls Club of America and, hopefully, move on this. He said the people at the meeting on Thursday included Bob Evans and noted that the proposal would include all of our programs and participants would be charged a fee of \$8 per year. He said they were making sure that they would be able to use the building as a Community Center as well as a Youth Center and noted that it would be a combination of both. He said private clubs could use the rooms of the building for meetings when the Community Center was not in operation. He noted that it seemed to be a very good fit. He added that he informed Mr. Taylor that it was subject to the Mayor and Council's decision and said the Committee is recommending that they pursue negotiations on a lease with the Boys and Girls Club of America. On behalf of the Committee and its members, Councilman DuPont thanked the Mayor for appointing them. He said he thinks they have concluded their fact finding mission and noted that both proposals are in Administrator Sickels office. He said if anyone had questions of him to please ask.

Councilman DuPont also reported that the Engineer had suggested a wonderful opportunity that she had been working on earlier and that was a Solar Panel Consortium wherein various municipal entities can go to the market for the purchase of solar panels and use their buying power in bulk to purchase solar panels. He asked Engineer Ballard to confirm that she was working on this in South Jersey. She confirmed that it was Lambertville. Councilman DuPont said he had asked Councilwoman-Elect Lewis if she might consider bringing the Board of Education on board to see if the effort might be possible with the Board of Education and the Borough which would eventually save money for the Borough and its residents.

Mayor Menna said he wanted to take a minute to thank all of the members of the Community Center Committee and that he knew all of them had put in an inordinate amount of time on this particular effort and had spoken to all of the stakeholders and participants. He said he thought the residents appreciated the amount of time that all of them had put into this dealing intelligently with the issues before us and the constraints that we have. He said he was grateful for the work they had done for the rest of us. He said now it is up to the Governing Body to take a look at the various proposals and see what is feasible, constructive and can be accomplished. Mayor Menna noted that after the Committee meeting, he had had one follow up meeting with another interested party, but he thinks, at this point, we have to review what is before the table. He said he was sure that all of them, as a Governing Body, would make that decision very quickly. He thanked the Committee again.

Councilman DuPont said he had one other note that he had forgotten to mention which was a proposed "Let's Light Up Red Bank" first annual home decorating contest which would be judged by the Mayor. He noted that there were two sponsors and that there would be no cost to the Borough. He said SuperFoodtown would be a sponsor, as well as Prown's and thanked both local businesses for helping out. He said first place would be a \$100 gift certificate to each business, second place was \$75 gift certificates, third place was \$50 and honorable mention was \$25. He noted that it would be judged the week of December 15 and the awards would be given out by Mayor Menna on December 22. Councilman DuPont also noted that on December 6, the Environmental Commission would be walking around town handing out CFL lights to all Borough residents. Mayor Menna also offered to make lunch for the winner of the home decorating contest.

## REPORTS OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

### COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Mayor Menna read requests from Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Fulgens Corona 1684 and the Red Bank Elks Lodge No. 233 for raffle licenses.

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

#### ROLL CALL:

AYES: Cangemi, Giannell, DuPont, Horgan, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

There being six ayes and no nays, the requests were declared approved.

Mayor Menna read a request from Lunch Break to change their original request to hang a banner on Shrewsbury Avenue from November 1, 2008 to November 30, 2008 and Broad Street from December 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008 to advertise their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to Shrewsbury Avenue from December 1, 2008 to January 31, 2009 and Broad Street from February 8, 2009 to March 8, 2009.

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

#### ROLL CALL:

AYES: Cangemi, Giannell, DuPont, Horgan, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

Mayor Menna read a request from Two River Theater Company to hang a banner on Broad Street from December 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008 to promote their family musical production of *A Year with Frog and Toad*.

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

#### ROLL CALL:

AYES: Cangemi, Giannell, DuPont, Horgan, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

Mayor Menna read a request from The George Sheehan Classic to hold the George Sheehan Classic event on June 12 & 13, 2009, and also use of Marine Park for various activities, pending approval of the Special Events Committee.

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

Councilwoman Cangemi noted that there had been previous discussions about either moving the event out of town or rerouting it so it didn't travel down Broad Street because of the disruption it causes. She said it was a great event and a worthwhile event but she's had a lot of negative comments on it.

Councilman Murphy said that Councilwoman Cangemi was right and that those concerns had been brought up at the Special Events Committee. He agreed that decision is usually delayed and the problems are discussed but it ends up being the same thing. He said they have discussed moving the date, but it would end up too close to other events and added that this date was chosen last year.

Councilwoman Horgan noted that it brings money into the Borough and said she that when she was in Atlantic City she had met a Councilman from another municipality that said he comes up to run in it and spends the whole day. She added that she thought it was good for the Borough.

Councilwoman Cangemi said there had been a lot of negative comments from businesses in town that felt that they lost revenue due to the street closures. She said if the Special Events Committee keeps approving it, she would support it and added that she just wanted to bring up the concerns.

Councilman Giannell noted that there had been a couple of letters in the Council packets from residents questioning the routing of the race and asked if other routes had been studied.

Mayor Menna noted that this was not the original route and said last year's route was actually a revision of previous routes. He added that last year's route is what they are proposing for this year. He also pointed out that the route had to be synchronized with the other towns involved. He said the question is whether or not this is an event we want to have and noted that the Council had the same debate last year. He said they do get a number of complaints particularly about Broad Street being closed in the morning. He said, generally speaking, it is cleared by 10:30 am which he admitted is a little bit of an inconvenience. He added that you are always going to have people disagreeing with it but he feels the overall positive impact of the race is that it does bring people to town. He said even if they don't stay that day, hopefully, they will come back.

Councilman Giannell asked again if alternative routes have been considered.

Mayor Menna said they have looked at alternative routes and added that some have suggested having the race in one of the County parks. He said, while that may be appealing to some people, the whole idea of the race is to give tribute and remember a man who had devoted all of his professional life to the Borough of Red Bank, George Sheehan. He added that he practiced at Riverview Hospital and his family still lives in town. He said the race sponsors wanted to highlight the Red Bank connection with such a prominent individual in the medical field who for so many years was known throughout the country. He said that is why it is in Red Bank instead of a County park and it was a good nexus for the Borough of Red Bank.

Councilman Giannell said he thought that they all agreed that it should be here but wanted to discuss the possibility of rerouting it.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Cangemi, Giannell, DuPont, Horgan, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

Mayor Menna read a request from A.H. Fisher Diamonds to install temporary signage in designated areas on the apron of the scaffolding during external renovations of their building, pending approval of the Construction Official.

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Cangemi, Giannell, DuPont, Horgan, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

Mayor Menna read a request from RiverCenter for free holiday parking at the meters in all parking lots in the RiverCenter District from December 17, 2008 through December 24, 2008.

Mayor Menna said the free parking should also be for the Arts and Antique District wherever there are parking meters.

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

Councilman Murphy agreed that the approval should include the Arts and Antique District and noted that this is something the Council does every year to encourage shoppers to come to Red Bank.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Cangemi, Giannell, DuPont, Horgan, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

Mayor Menna read a request from Lunch Break to use the Count Basie Learning Center for a staging area for collecting and wrapping holiday presents from December 1, 2008 to December 24, 2008, pending approval of the Construction Official and submitting a certificate of insurance.

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Cangemi, Giannell, DuPont, Horgan, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

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

**ORDINANCES – First Reading**

2008-28 Mayor Menna read “ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER XI(A), “LOW AND MODERATE INCOME HOUSING,” ESTABLISHING NEW SECTION 11A-11, “MANDATORY AFFORDABLE HOUSING FEES AND AN AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND.”

Mayor Menna noted that the purpose of this ordinance is to bring us into compliance with current COAH regulations for the State of New Jersey. He noted that the ordinance is modeled after the COAH ordinance that is in place. He said it also has to be ratified as part of the Borough’s COAH round three obligation plans hopefully by December 31. He added that it basically confirms what the COAH regulations say in terms of various contributions to be made in the event of housing approvals.

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Cangemi, Giannell, DuPont, Horgan, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

Public hearing and final adoption scheduled for December 8, 2008.

2008-29 Mayor Menna read “ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER IX, “LICENSING OF TAXICABS,” SECTION 9-2.6, “NUMBER OF LICENSES,” SECTION 9-2.14, “LICENSE FEES,” AND SECTION 9-7, “FEES FOR CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE.”

Mayor Menna noted that this ordinance would raise the number of new taxi cab licenses allowed by ten and slightly amends the fees to make it in conformity with existing standards throughout the area.

Councilwoman Lee asked if this increase would apply to one company.

Mayor Menna said no, that it would be spread across.

Borough Clerk Vivona said if there was a problem, they would have to hold a lottery.

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

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Cangemi, Giannell, DuPont, Horgan, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

Public hearing and final adoption scheduled for December 8, 2008.

## **ORDINANCES – Public Hearing & Final Adoption**

### **RESOLUTIONS**

08-237 Mayor Menna read “A RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO IMPLEMENT A STATE-WIDE BAN ON PLASTIC BAGS.”

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

#### **ROLL CALL:**

AYES: Giannell, DuPont, Horgan, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: Cangemi

There being five ayes and one nay, the resolution was declared approved.

08-238 Mayor Menna read “A RESOLUTION URGING THE RED BANK BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE RED BANK REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION TO IMPLEMENT EDUCATION PROGRAMS RELATED TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL HARM CAUSED BY THE USE OF PLASTIC BAGS AND PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND ALTERNATIVES TO PLASTIC BAGS.”

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

#### **ROLL CALL:**

AYES: Cangemi, Giannell, DuPont, Horgan, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

08-239 Mayor Menna read “A RESOLUTION REQUESTING SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE.”

Mayor Menna said the item was with respect to the body armor replacement fund grant from the State of New Jersey.

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

#### **ROLL CALL:**

AYES: Cangemi, Giannell, DuPont, Horgan, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

## **PROCLAMATIONS**

### **PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS**

08-241 Mayor Menna read “A RESOLUTION FOR PAYMENT OF BILLS AMOUNTING TO \$1,373,587.64.”

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

#### **ROLL CALL:**

AYES: Cangemi, Giannell, DuPont, Horgan, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Councilman DuPont offered a thank you from himself and the Mayor and Council to the Environmental Commission for taking the time on the Red Bank Green plan. He said he had sent it to the DEP he was so impressed with it and is waiting for some comments back.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **AUDIENCE**

Nancy Adams—Director of RiverCenter—said she wanted to make a few announcements regarding the upcoming holiday season. She said starting this Friday, the 28<sup>th</sup>, they would have the Holiday Express Concert on Broad Street, the Santa Express coming from the Little Silver train station into the Red Bank train stations followed by the parade down Monmouth Street to the town lighting. She said she wanted to emphasize the whole town lighting, not just the tree. She said the town lighting would include the new tree at the New Jersey Transit lot. She said this was done with the assistance of a lot of people from the Borough including Stanley Sickels, Gary Watson and Mike Olimpi as well as representative from New Jersey Transit. She noted that since there are limited street trees going into the expanded district, it has been a challenge to try to light up the expanded district with the same amount of lights and vibrancy as the Broad Street area which has many more street trees. She said they were very happy to be able to provide a permanent tree at the Transit lot. Also, she noted, beginning Saturday from 1pm to 5pm and every Saturday through the last Saturday before Christmas there would be horse and carriage rides and the locations will be on Broad Street in front of the Murphy Style Grill and also on Bridge Avenue between the Two River Theatre and Danny's Restaurant. She added that there will be two horse and wagons going around at the same time. She said between 12 and 3pm they would have Holiday Harmonies, which she said was like Streetlife in the winter, and they will be adding a location at the Transit station this year. Lastly, she reported that Saturday, December 6, as part of the holiday celebration, they will be starting Hometown Holiday which is a Red Bank resident appreciation day that will be an all day event with different businesses offering giveaways or something special for the residents who come in. She noted that 55 businesses are participating. She said they had just done a postcard mailing promoting the Hometown Holiday event and said anyone who brings the postcard in to any of the participating businesses will be entered into a sweepstakes for a gift basket. She also noted the free parking that will be available. She said RiverCenter is also working with the schools on a poster contest and in order to enter the children or their parents would have to bring the poster into the district to drop it off at a specified point. She noted that one of their goals is to get Red Bank residents into the business district to shop and enjoy all of the other things going on. She said residents can find out what businesses are participating and what they are offering by visiting their website at [redbankrivercenter.org/residentsday](http://redbankrivercenter.org/residentsday).

Councilman DuPont asked what time the tree lighting was. Ms. Adams said it was a 7pm following the parade down to Broad Street. Councilman DuPont asked what time the train arrived. Ms. Adams said 6:23pm but they recommend people start getting there around 4pm.

Mayor Menna noted that the Red Bank Middle School Jazz Band will be performing as the opening act for Holiday Express and said we are so proud of them and he wants to encourage them whenever he can.

Cindy Burnham—146 Harrison Avenue, Fair Haven—noted that she was a Red Bank taxpayer and said she wanted to thank everybody for what they've done for the Maple Avenue project. She said she wanted to acknowledge and thank former Councilman John Curley who brought this site to her attention. She added that she was simply looking for a place to launch her kayak when she stumbled onto the Borough-owned diamond in the rough. She said after learning that Red Bank had relinquished the only public boat ramp to Riverview Hospital, it became even more crucial to her that we save this site for recreational purposes. She said Mr. Sickels, Public Works, Rich Kosenski and T&M Associates and Councilwoman Grace Cangemi were relentless in their efforts to get DEP approval so they could remove illegally dumped soil piles that had been there since the 70's. She thanked Councilwoman Horgan, Councilwoman Lee, Mayor Menna for their public commitment to save this property so the people could have it. She said she is so happy that Red Bank has shown its commitment to save this land for conservation and recreational purposes by placing it on the DEP Green Acres Open Space list which she now knows is called the ROSI. She said thanks again to all that supported this project and we're dedicated to the idea that Red Bank does deserve a place where people can go to launch a kayak or canoe, a natural open space where kids can come to find clams or oyster shells, feed the ducks or touch a jelly fish or horseshoe crab. She noted that you can actually put your feet in the Navesink River and see and feel the sand for which Red Bank was named. She said this is truly a wonderful Christmas present for the people of Red Bank and she wanted to personally thank the Council for all of their hard work.

David Prown—44 Hillside Place—said he wanted to thank the Mayor for always remembering the Red Bank kids. In regard to Councilman DuPont's report on the Community Center, Mr. Prown wanted to note that the two proposals were dramatically different. He added that they were both from great organizations, but noted that one had proposed \$120,000 and the other had proposed well in excess of \$300,000. He noted that not only were they will to do something for no money from the taxpayer of Red Bank, but were also willing to invest a huge sum of money which included an additional \$40,000 for start



up and fix up on the building. He said it showed they wanted to make a real commitment to the town and the kids of Red Bank.

Mr. Prown also noted that December 5<sup>th</sup> will be the fifth annual Red Bank Red Kettle Classic, a basketball tournament he founded five years ago here in Red Bank to involve the Red Bank Schools in playing in an inner season tournament because those tournaments (a) cost a lot of money and (b) when our kids participated they got beaten pretty good. He said this was a way for the Red Bank kids to be a part of a regular, normal team. He said he though all of the Council had attended in years past and this year will be no different with the event being held on December 5<sup>th</sup> at the Salvation Army with the first game kicking off at 5:30. To be total impartial, he added, and as a supporter of both schools, he donned a hat representing both schools. He noted United Teletech as agreed to sponsor a tournament that will go back and forth between the two Red Bank Schools and has been back dated three years. He said ten players will get Buc clothing from Del Pra and Red Bank Regional. He noted that Del Pra will also be speaking to the kids and tossing out the honorary first ball as well as giving out ten season passes and ten Red Bank Regional t-shirts. Mr. Prown said at half time they will have "Half Time Hysteria" which will be a fun contest with the kids and all of the participants will get a Red Bank bobble-head Half Time Hysteria trophy. He said he expected it to be a sell out and monstrous event with a great sense of community.

Mr. Prown said he wanted to follow up on something he had talk about before which was previewing statistics of Red Bank kids at the high school level. He noted that this was no indictment of our high school, Red Bank Regional, nor on the Borough schools or Charter School. He said in the twenty years he's been here, he thinks the three schools have never been working together better or giving higher output. But, he added, we all know the level of what our kids are up against going against the other sending districts is significant. He said all he is doing is presenting numbers for awareness purposes. For us to get up to the level of the neighboring towns, he continued, from academics to performing arts to athletics, will take a Herculean task and it could take generations because this problem goes back many, many generations. He said it will only be achieved with a full, town-wide effort. He said Red Bank sends about 30 percent of the kids to RBR and, hence, are paying about 30 percent of the bill. He said earlier this month he attended the Red Bank Regional Board of Education and they had a presentation called Academic Varsity Letter. He noted that to achieve an Academic Varsity Letter, a student had to achieve an average a 90 or better the previous year for the entire year, i.e. straight A's. He said 25 kids were recognized, zero children from the Red Bank sending school district. He repeated that it was not an indictment, just to bring awareness. He said yesterday he had attended the RBR presentation of Romeo and Juliet and said it was fabulous. He said of 41 casted parts, four were from Red Bank which was about 10 percent. He noted that was a number they would hear in multitude and that even though we send 30 percent of the kids, recognition, achievement and participation level at the high school, and not just in sports, averages about 10 percent. He asked Council members to think about those numbers and how they can attack it going forward noting that it is a monumental task.

Mayor Menna thanked Mr. Prown and said he appreciated all that he had done as well as the statistical data he had provided. He said, on a more positive note, last night he had had the pleasure of being at the African American Elks organization annual recognition dinner for the top Elk of New Jersey and it was a gentleman from Red Bank that will be honored at the next Council meeting. He said the African American Elks, in the presence of people from around the State, gave out a number of achievement awards and of the six young people that were there and that were the age of freshmen in high school, three of them were from Red Bank. He noted that they achieved a rather significant academic achievement at Red Bank Regional High School and they were our residents. He said it was great because the incoming Grand Exalted Ruler is actually a Red Bank resident. He said he spoke with each of the young people in terms of how they were doing and they said they were doing well and they spoke very highly of their other colleagues from Red Bank. He said he thinks we have a good core group and noted that when you see them in either the Primary or Charter school, they have a good camaraderie that is a source of pride with some of our residents. He noted that he went to Red Bank High School and that he was a very good student, but he had challenges noting that students were faced with individuals from more affluent communities and, in certain types of core issues, they just didn't blend well. He said he thinks they are doing a lot better today. He told Mr. Prown that the issues he was raising are nothing new and that they were present when he went to school but he thinks that all of us working together can surmount them. He thanked Mr. Prown for the work that he does and said we have to encourage these kids that they can participate in the dramatic arts club, they can be in the vocal club, they can be great soccer players and we have to give them all pats on the back and that is why he appreciates what Mr. Prown does.

Mr. Prown said he thought the Youth Community Center could also lend itself to fostering those sort of things. He also asked Mayor Menna if he remembers who the three kids were. He said he did and he would give him the names later.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Menna said there was no need for an Executive Session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**ROLL CALL:**

AYES: Cangemi, Giannell, DuPont, Horgan, Lee, Murphy

NAYS: None

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

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Borghi