

**MINUTES  
REGULAR MEETING  
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL – BOROUGH OF RED BANK  
JANUARY 22, 2007  
7:30 P.M.**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Mayor Menna and Council Members Bifani, Curley, Lee, Ernst and DuPont.

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

ABSENT: Councilman Murphy 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, 2007.

**WORKSHOP**

**Parking Fines**

Councilman Curley asked Councilman DuPont if the Finance Committee had looked into the possibility of reducing the parking fines as discussed at the last Council Meeting. Mr. DuPont said they had looked into the matter and determined that Mr. Curley's proposal of reducing tickets to \$25 would add two cents to the tax rate and that he could not recommend the proposal. He noted that it is a worthwhile gesture to try to reduce the parking ticket fines. He also noted that he had done some research and found that Red Bank was not out of line with what other towns were charging. He cited several examples of towns that had similar fines or higher. He said he also inquired how Red Bank came about having a \$38 parking fine and said he found the doubling of the fine to \$38 was recommended in 2003 by the Finance Committee which included Mr. Curley, Councilman Hintelmann and Councilman Menna. He added that according to Chief Financial Officer Mason the reduction would mean a loss of about \$181,000 in revenue and cause a two cent increase in the tax rate. Mr. Curley said he believed the loss would be \$188,000. Mr. DuPont said he could not recommend the reduction at this time. He said he knew Mayor Menna had eliminated some positions in an effort to reduce expenses in the Borough and he would hate to lose the \$188,000 in revenue. Mr. Curley thanked Mr. DuPont for looking into the matter so in depth and that he appreciated his work as Finance Chairman. Referring to the parking fine increase, Mr. Curley said he didn't know how the Finance Committee vote went a few years ago. Mr. Curley called Mr. DuPont's figures a comparison of "apples and oranges" and said we should not be using Utility money to offset property taxes as has been the policy for quite some time. Councilman Bifani noted that it is not Utility money, it is Court fees. Mr. Curley noted that the Borough had used Utility money before and that we shouldn't continue including money coming into the Court. He said we should cut expenses where ever we can. Mr. DuPont again noted that Mr. Menna had cut the payroll by three positions and that the money being discussed was revenue and not Utility money. Mr. Curley said his recommendation included the suggestion that the reduction be offset by having enforcement continue into the evening hours when there is a majority of activity. He noted that we do not currently enforce the hours that are posted on the signs which call for paying up to 8 p.m. Mr. DuPont said he agreed that the signs should be changed and that, while it was proper discussion, it wouldn't be prudent to reduce the fines as it would raise taxes. Mr. Menna said it was a very good, healthy discussion and commended Mr. DuPont on his report and asked for it in writing so everyone could review and digest it. Referring back to Mr. Curley's comment that he didn't know how the committee vote went back in 2003 regarding raising the fines, Mr. Menna noted that it was Council vote and it was approved by the Council, of which Mr. Curley was a member, unanimously based on a committee recommendation. He said everyone on the Council thought it was a good idea at the time. He also asked everyone to consider something he said on January 1<sup>st</sup> which was to try to make our parking more user friendly including making a better effort to educate people about and encourage the use of our Smart Card system which helps to avoid tickets. He asked everyone to review Mr. DuPont's report when it is distributed and then revisit the issue within thirty days, vote on it and look at other alternatives. He said he didn't know of any town in New Jersey that wasn't using Court fees to assist tax payers and called it a useful and legal tool to offset the use of our infrastructure by people who come to town that aren't taxpayers. He said we could also consider the message sent to our visitors and business owners but would like all of the information before we do that. Mr. Curley said he agreed wholeheartedly, but would like to get away from using Utility money whether Water Utility or Parking Utility to help offset property taxes. He would like to see the town managed better. Mr. Bifani said he did not believe it was reckless to use revenues to help offset taxes for the taxpayer. He also noted that the newspaper article seemed to cite people from other towns, not from Red Bank. He said he thought Red Bank people knew where to park or could walk into town. He said the town needs this help for

fixed income and senior residents. He explained that you think you have a handle on the budget and a sewer collapse can add a million dollars. He said we have continued expenses and we don't have beach badges to sell or any other place to find incoming money except parking. He also called Mr. Curley's suggestion reckless. He said the costs to run the Parking Department were not up to date and we would need those figures. He also said Mr. DuPont's original figure of \$181,000 was correct but either way it was a lot of money. He also agreed with Mr. Menna that it was a good way to get help from non-taxpayers who use our infrastructure and added that while the price might seem high, we were in the middle of the pack. Mr. Menna also noted that those interviewed in the newspaper article did not dispute the fact that they had not put money in the meter, but had miscalculated the time needed. He said that is what the Smart Card would eliminate by taking the guess work out of it and parkers would actually end up spending less. Mr. Bifani also noted that in an attempt to make parking friendlier they had implemented a 15 minute window before a ticket is issued. Mr. Curley again pointed out that our signs state parking is enforced until 8 p.m. He also stated he wanted to clarify that he is not opposed to helping taxpayers with Utility money, but that we should make the budget much more stringent rather than just seeing money from a Utility and utilizing it. He said we should reduce spending overall and that Utility money should only be used as a last resort. Mr. Bifani said Mr. Curley would need a plan to replace the \$181,000. Mr. Curley said he thought the best way to make up the funds was to have enforcement up until the time that is posted which is 8 p.m. because that is when most of the activity is and he believes there would be a lot more than \$181,000. Mr. Bifani said he would rather have proof. Mr. Menna said he respected both of their opinions, but they were both missing the fact that, due to union regulations and employment requirements, we would have to employ more people. He said everyone should review the information once received in writing.

## **MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS**

Mayor Menna appointed Michael Monroe as Chairperson to the Construction Board of Appeals.

### **ROLL CALL:**

AYES: Bifani, Curley, Lee, Ernst, DuPont

NAYS: None

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

Mayor Menna appointed Wallace Englehart as Vice Chairperson to the Construction Board of Appeals.

### **ROLL CALL:**

AYES: Bifani, Curley, Lee, Ernst, DuPont

NAYS: None

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

## **REPORTS OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Councilman Curley reported that the new Parks and Recreation Committee met the past week and consisted of Councilwoman Ernst and Councilman Bifani. He said he appreciated the input from those individuals as well as Mr. Sickels and Mr. Watson. He said they reviewed the Policies and Procedures. He said they will be reappointing the Parks and Recreation staff and felt they had a strong group that can carry forth our programs. He said he hoped the programs could remain existing and strengthen and enlarge the activity. He added that the committee is putting forth stringent guidelines that have been laid out by the auditor and that a memorandum had been distributed to employees to advise them that they are being supervised directly first by Mr. Watson then Mr. Sickels. He said he didn't want a situation to pop up like it did with the Finance Committee last year. He noted that members of the Council are not full time employees and do not supervise people. He said the committee was confident in moving forward and appreciated the help of the Mayor. Mayor Menna expressed his gratitude to the committee and said they had done some important work and that he was happy to assist in any way.

Councilman Bifani had no report.

Councilwoman Lee said the Education and Technology Committee formed by Mayor Menna had met and that they did an exit interview of our Technology Coordinator to get an update of where the Borough stands. The committee is considering new programs and technology needs as well as the mission of the committee. She said they hope to update the technology in the Borough linking the Municipal Building with our other buildings.

Councilwoman Ernst said the Shade Tree Committee had reviewed the road improvement program schedule and it is hoped that the projects will be completed in time for the spring plantings. The committee has also begun work on its annual Arbor Day celebration. Anyone who would like to participate should contact Ms. Ernst or the committee. All are welcome and help is appreciated. The committee is preparing its annual

accomplishment report for submission to the Council then to the State. She said the first Code Enforcement meeting of the year is scheduled for this week. Ongoing efforts of the Department will be discussed as well as personnel issues. The Navesink River Municipalities Committee hosted a meeting last Wednesday at which the Environmental Protection Agency presented the results of a study that showed high levels of bacteria entering the Navesink River from the Borough's storm drains. The purpose of this presentation was to inform the public how the study was conducted and what the result means to Red Bank residents and those of surrounding communities. After the presentation, Christine Ballard of T&M Associates said the study has already been beneficial to the Borough by enabling us to identify and fix problems related to storm water run off. Ms. Ernst said the meeting was extremely well attended by NRMC members, borough officials, representatives of the Sandy Hook Waterman's Alliance, Clean Ocean Action, Assemblyman Michael Panter's Office and the Division of Water Quality for the NJDEP. More information on the study is available through the DEP or the NRMC.

Councilman DuPont said the Finance Committee has had three meetings already and is committed to its goal to be more transparent. They hope to have all the tax rates on the web as well as a synopsis of the audit report. The Finance Committee is also anxiously awaiting the opportunity for residents to pay taxes on line with a debit card. Mr. Menna noted that the Court is moving forward with the ability to make on line payments with a credit card.

Mayor Menna noted that Councilman Murphy was away, but wanted to note on his behalf that there were two losses of long time members of the Fire Department, Jerry Johnson and Lonnie Curchin, with both funerals being held earlier in the evening.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS**

Mayor Menna read requests from Red Bank Elks Lodge No. 233, Jersey Shore Jazz & Blues Foundation and The Community YMCA for raffle licenses.

Mr. Curley offered a motion to approve the requests, seconded by Mr. DuPont.

#### **ROLL CALL:**

AYES: Bifani, Curley, Lee, Ernst, DuPont

NAYS: None

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

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 Thursday, June 14, 2007 with a rain date of Friday, June 15, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., pending approval of the Special Events Committee.

Ms. Lee offered a motion to approve the request, seconded by Mr. DuPont.

Mayor Menna requested that Mr. Sickels make sure that the Elks Annual Flag Day Flag Retirement Ceremony also scheduled for June 14 could still be accommodated.

#### **ROLL CALL:**

AYES: Bifani, Curley, Lee, Ernst, DuPont

NAYS: None

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

Mayor Menna read a request from the Red Bank Charter School to use the Senior Center for their Spring Dance on Friday, May 18, 2007, pending approval of the Special Events Committee.

Mr. Bifani offered a motion to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Curley.

#### **ROLL CALL:**

AYES: Bifani, Curley, Lee, Ernst, DuPont

NAYS: None

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

Mayor Menna read a request from the Diocese of Trenton to hold their annual march from St. Anthony's Church down Peters Place to Broad Street to Newman Springs Road on Saturday, March 10, 2007, pending approval of the Chief of Police.

Ms. Lee offered a motion to approve the request, seconded by Mr. DuPont.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Bifani, Curley, Lee, DuPont

NAYS: Ernst

There being four ayes and one nay, the request was declared approved.

Mayor Menna read a request from The Two Rivers Antique Show & Garden Tour Committee to hang a 3'x15' banner on the outside of the Red Bank Armory & Ice Complex from May 8, 2007 to June 10, 2007 to advertise their event and to place 26"x18" signs along Maple Avenue to Chestnut Street and Bridge Avenue to Chestnut Street to help guide their patrons from June 8, 2007 to June 10, 2007.

Mr. DuPont offered a motion to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Bifani.

Mayor Menna noted that in the past Councilman Bifani has expressed anger over groups who are allowed to post signs along roadways and fail to remove them with the duty falling to Public Works. Mr. Menna suggested a \$200 escrow so that if they don't take it down the expense for Public Works to do it is covered. Mr. Bifani said is was a good idea and asked the council to consider not allowing lawn signs in the future calling them "organized litter." Councilwoman Ernst suggested imposing a fine for left over signs. Assistant Attorney Hall suggested the Council consider an ordinance. Mr. Bifani said the sign issue extends to those posted on utility poles and calls for a sweeping motion from the Council. He said he would put forth a recommendation through the Public Works Committee for consideration by the Council. Ms. Ernst said she would like to see fines in place for those that just randomly place signs without permission. Mr. Menna said they are hard to enforce because it is sometimes difficult to track down those responsible. Councilman Curley asked about the policy toward non-profits. Mr. Menna said he thought it should apply equally to cover our costs. Mr. Sickels noted that our ordinance currently restricts signage and that this would be an exception to the ordinance. Mr. DuPont amended his motion to include the \$200 escrow requirement.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Bifani, Curley, Lee, Ernst, DuPont

NAYS: None

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

Mayor Menna read a request from the Visiting Nurses Association of Central Jersey to hang two (2) 25"x3' banners on the outside of their building located on Bodman Place from approximately April 1, 2007 to May 31, 2007 to advertise their upcoming "Stately Homes By-the-Sea" designer showcase fundraising event.

Ms. Lee offered a motion to approve the request, seconded by Mr. DuPont.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Bifani, Curley, Lee, Ernst, DuPont

NAYS: None

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

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

Mr. DuPont offered a motion to close the public comment portion of the meeting, seconded by Mr. Curley.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Bifani, Curley, Lee, Ernst, DuPont

NAYS: None

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

## **ORDINANCES – First Reading**

2007-5      Mayor Menna read “AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER IV, “GENERAL LICENSING,” SECTION 4-12.5, “APPLICATIO PROCESS FOR LICENSES,” SECTION 4-12.7, “LICENSE FEES” AND SECTION 4-12, “SCHEDULE A.”

Mr. DuPont offered a motion to adopt the ordinance on first reading, seconded by Mr. Curley.

Assistant Attorney Hall noted that there was a typographical error on the ordinance. The previous amount for a flat bed reads \$75, it should read \$95.

ROLL CALL:

AYES:      Bifani, Curley, Lee, Ernst, DuPont

NAYS:      None

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

Public hearing and final adoption scheduled for February 12, 2007.

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

2007-1      Mayor Menna read “AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER II, “ADMINISTRATION,” SECTION 2-6.5(b), “STANDING COMMITTEES APPOINTED AT ANNUAL MEETING.”

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

Mr. DuPont offered a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Ms. Lee.

ROLL CALL:

AYES:      Bifani, Curley, Lee, Ernst, DuPont

NAYS:      None

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

Mr. DuPont offered a motion to adopt the ordinance on final reading, seconded by Ms. Lee.

ROLL CALL:

AYES:      Bifani, Curley, Lee, Ernst, DuPont

NAYS:      None

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

2007-2      Mayor Menna read “AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY AMENDING AND SUPPLEMENTING CHAPTER VII, “TRAFFIC,” SECTION 7-10.1, “LEFT TURN PROHIBITION.”

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

William Brooks, 77 Tower Hill Avenue, Red Bank, appeared and thanked the Council for its effort.

Councilman Curley said he thought the plan would work. He noted that the residents had asked for bollards on Harding Road but the county cited that it would be difficult for Harding Road residents to enter their drive way. Mr. Brooks said he disagreed but was glad to see this done and if this didn’t work, they could revisit the issue. Councilman Bifani also praised the residents for their efforts including Mr. Brooks and Mr. Val DeFazio. Mr. Brooks also credited Mr. DeFazio for his work on the effort.

Mayor Menna asked if anyone else would like to speak, there being no one else appearing, he closed the public hearing.

Mr. DuPont offered a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Ms. Lee.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Bifani, Curley, Lee, Ernst, DuPont

NAYS: None

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

Mr. Bifani offered a motion to adopt the ordinance on final reading, seconded by Ms. Lee.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Bifani, Curley, Lee, Ernst, DuPont

NAYS: None

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

2007-3 Mayor Menna read “AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING CONVEYANCE OF AN EASEMENT UPON THE BOROUGH’S RIGHT OF WAY ON UNION STREET TO JERSEY CENTRAL POWER & LIGHT.”

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

Mr. DuPont offered a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Ms. Lee.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Bifani, Curley, Lee, Ernst, DuPont

NAYS: None

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

Ms. Ernst offered a motion to adopt the ordinance on final reading, seconded by Mr. Bifani.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Bifani, Curley, Lee, Ernst, DuPont

NAYS: None

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

## RESOLUTIONS

07-29 Mayor Menna read “A RESOLUTION RELEASING PERFORMANCE GUARANTEES POSTED BY 17 NOVEMBER, L.L.C., 48 DRS. JAMES PARKER BOULEVARD, BLOCK 76, LOT 4.”

Ms. Lee offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. DuPont.

Councilman Curley asked Mayor Menna what property the resolution referred to. Mr. Menna said it was a small attorney’s office that had recently been converted.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Bifani, Curley, Lee, Ernst, DuPont

NAYS: None

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

07-30 Mayor Menna read "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CREATION OF CHANGE FUNDS."

Mr. DuPont offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. Ernst.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Bifani, Curley, Lee, Ernst, DuPont

NAYS: None

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

07-31 Mayor Menna read "A RESOLUTION HONORING 2006 FIRE CHIEF."

Ms. Lee offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Curley.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Bifani, Curley, Lee, Ernst, DuPont

NAYS: None

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

07-32 Mayor Menna read "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT WITH DR. MICHAEL KAHN OF EMPLOYEE CONSULTING ASSOCIATES."

Mr. DuPont offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. Lee.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Bifani, Curley, Lee, Ernst, DuPont

NAYS: None

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

07-33 Mayor Menna read "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF OFFICE TRAILERS FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT."

Councilman Bifani noted that the Borough is currently renting the trailer and the Public Works Committee was recommending the purchase to alleviate the need to pay rent.

Mr. Bifani offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. Lee.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Bifani, Curley, Lee, Ernst, DuPont

NAYS: None

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

07-34 Mayor Menna read "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF PLANNING BOARD ENGINEER."

Ms. Lee offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. Ernst.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Bifani, Curley, Lee, Ernst, DuPont

NAYS: None

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

07-35        Mayor Menna read "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF ZONING BOARD ENGINEER."

Ms. Lee offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Bifani.

ROLL CALL:

AYES:        Bifani, Curley, Lee, Ernst, DuPont

NAYS:        None

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

07-36        Mayor Menna read "A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF CURRENT FUND & WATER UTILITY APPROPRIATION RESERVE."

Mr. DuPont offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. Lee.

ROLL CALL:

AYES:        Bifani, Curley, Lee, Ernst, DuPont

NAYS:        None

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

07-37        Mayor Menna read "A RESOLUTION HONORING JAMES SCHMIDT ON HIS 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY IN THE RED BANK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT."

Ms. Lee offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Bifani.

ROLL CALL:

AYES:        Bifani, Curley, Lee, Ernst, DuPont

NAYS:        None

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

07-38        Mayor Menna read "A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING APPOINTMENTS FOR 2007."

Mayor Menna noted that this resolution confirmed the appointment of the Director of Recreation and the Assistant Director of Recreation pursuant to the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Mr. Curley offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. Lee.

ROLL CALL:

AYES:        Bifani, Curley, Lee, Ernst, DuPont

NAYS:        None

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

## **PROCLAMATIONS**

### **PAYMENT OF VOUCHERS**

07-39        Mayor Menna read "A RESOLUTION FOR PAYMENT OF BILLS AMOUNTING TO \$1,253,549.39."

Mr. DuPont offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Ms. Lee.

ROLL CALL:

AYES:        Bifani, Curley, Lee, Ernst, DuPont

NAYS:        None

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

## OLD BUSINESS

### NEW BUSINESS

Before reading from a prepared statement, Councilwoman Ernst noted that when she first joined the Council, three months passed before anyone told her where the coat room was and said that to say that her experience on Council has not been what she expected would be an understatement. She said she's been yelled at, smacked and called names. She said she has felt excluded and she has been lied to which has made accomplishing anything virtually impossible. She said she feels there has already been a major change for the better and that an era of higher standards has begun. She credited the change to our new Mayor and offered her gratitude and full support. She said she has suffered personal setbacks. She said that she recognized that everyone who sits at the Council table makes great personal sacrifices. She said she has a very supportive family and that she has ignored her family obligations for a very long time. She said it is for these reasons and with great regret that she resigns her Council seat to be effective with the close of business of the next Council meeting. She said she is making a choice to change her life and that she can no longer live the life she wants to in the town that she loves so much and is leaving the State. She said, in the next few days, she and Councilman Curley along with the Republican Chair will be tendering a list of candidates for her replacement. She said it is her sincere hope that the Mayor accepts her recommendation that Grace Cangemi be selected to fill the seat, noting that "if not for 14 votes, she would be sitting at this table." She added that she thought Ms. Cangemi's background and experience would enable her to do a good job for the people of this community. She said that Red Bank's greatest asset is its people and she will miss every one of them. She thanked everyone for their support and said "it has been an honor and a privilege."

Mayor Menna said he was genuinely shocked and surprised. He noted that people's personal lives are changed when they serve a municipality and said few people understand the drain that it does take. He said she has taken on other people's challenges and questions. He added that she has worked on issues without an agenda trying to make a change and he felt she has. Mayor Menna said he has met Ms. Ernst's parents and he respects them and knows they are very proud of her. He expressed his deepest appreciation because he said he knew what sacrifices she has made. He said he knows her heart has always been in the right place and that her attachment to Red Bank will continue with friends willing to welcome her back into their midst.

Councilman Curley agreed that it was a shock to everyone and called Ms. Ernst a passionate, fervent and dedicated individual. He said this has been demonstrated by her tenure as Chair of Code Enforcement and her efforts to create a better quality of life for everyone in the Borough. He also noted she was dedicated to affordability in the Borough. He said he admired her for speaking out when others did not. He commended her work with the Republican Party and said her loss will leave a void. He said she was happy she had found peace in changing her life.

Councilwoman Lee noted that she and Ms. Ernst had had their differences. She said as the two women on Council that she and Ms. Ernst had been fortunate to serve on a Council that not only tolerates but accepts. She said while they've had their differences, she will miss her and knows she has worked hard.

Councilman Bifani told Ms. Ernst that they all know even though they have disagreed on a lot of issues, he knows she has voted with her heart and he respects that. He agreed with her statement that it does feel different on the Council now which he also credited to the new Mayor and a spirit of cooperation that couldn't happen unless the adversarial party also portrayed that and said she was the leader of that. He said they will miss her because of the balance she would bring to the adversarial side. He wished the best of luck to both her and her family.

## AUDIENCE

Steve Fitzpatrick, 32 Chestnut Street, Red Bank, said that on behalf of the residents he would like to thank Ms. Ernst for her service to the Borough and wished her the best of luck. He also asked Mr. Mason what one cent on the tax rate represents in terms of dollars. Mr. Mason said one cent would represent \$97,000. Mr. Fitzpatrick asked someone to address how the Fair and Open process was used this year in the appointment of the professionals. Mr. Sickels said a notice was placed in the papers listing the positions requesting proposals which were received and reviewed by the Mayor and the Chief Financial Officer and recommendations were made for appointment. Mr. Menna noted that not all appointments have been made yet for various reasons including the fact that some came in high and he had asked that the request go out again. He noted that this was the first year it has been done that way and that there were some minor glitches that can be improved upon next year. Mr. Fitzpatrick asked when the Council met to review the proposals. Mr. Menna said they were upstairs to be reviewed at any time. Mr. Fitzgerald asked if there was a meeting between Council members to go through them. Mr. Menna said they are Mayoral Appointments and again noted that some had still not been made. Mr. Fitzgerald asked if next year there might be a meeting or a committee to review the candidates. Mr. Menna said there was no need and he would welcome any member of the Council to review them and let him know what they think which some have done. Mr. Fitzgerald asked what a Council member should do if they reviewed an application and they were not happy with it. Mr. Menna said they should let him know right away and he would be happy to address it. He reiterated that this was the first year and that he would like to see a longer lag time before the bids have to be returned. He also said he would like them to not be so onerous and gave an example of one retired attorney who was willing to serve for one dollar per year but found the paperwork too onerous. He said the man was appointed because he was the sole bidder. Mr. Fitzpatrick asked

Mr. Menna if he has made any progress with their previous discussion of disclosing his campaign contributions. Mr. Menna said he spoke with the accountant and he reviewed the ELEC report and it was correct, mirrored the reports of their opponents and met the threshold requirements. He said for them to redo them would mean an additional charge. He said since the campaign is already in the hole, he didn't think it was prudent to add an additional expense. However, he said, it did raise a good point and he spoke with Mayor Pringle to see how things are done in Belmar. He said he would recommend to whoever is up this year that the appropriate thing to do would be to put everything up on line as they do in Belmar—even a contribution of fifty cents—so that any contributors would be aware all donations would be put on line. He said that he would recommend this for the future, but that to go back and redo last year would cost money that they don't have. Mr. Fitzpatrick pressed the issue asking if Mr. Menna would not disclose the contributions below \$300. Mr. Menna said they have those contributions and they have been disclosed according to law. Mr. Fitzpatrick asked if what Mr. DuPont said earlier about being transparent does not apply. Mr. Menna said what was discussed was the budget process not their ELEC reports. Mr. Fitzpatrick said campaign contributions and where they come from are very important. Mr. Menna said he agreed. He also noted that the Republican campaign had the same ratio of unreported contributors because they were under \$300. Mr. Fitzpatrick said that Mr. Menna had said he would disclose them. Mr. Menna said they are available for Mr. Fitzpatrick's review but that he had asked for the filing to be amended and they don't have the money to do that. However, it will be done in the future.

Mr. DuPont offered a motion to close the public portion of the meeting, seconded by Mr. Bifani.

**ROLL CALL:**

AYES: Bifani, Curley, Lee, Ernst, DuPont

NAYS: None

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. DuPont offered a motion to close of the meeting, seconded by Mr. Bifani.

**ROLL CALL:**

AYES: Bifani, Curley, Lee, Ernst, DuPont

NAYS: None

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

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Borghi