

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL – BOROUGH OF RED BANK
JANUARY 9, 2001
5:30 P.M.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor McKenna and Council Members Beck, Menna, Bifani, Thompson, Polonsky.

ALSO PRESENT: Administrator Sickels, Deputy Clerk Hughes, Chief Financial Officer Loversidge, Attorney O'Connor, and Engineer Kosenski.

Meeting started at 5:45 with Council President Robert J. Bifani.

Mayor McKenna arrived at 5:47 p.m.

ABSENT: Councilman Hintelmann.

SUNSHINE STATEMENT

SUSPEND REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. Menna offered a motion to suspend regular order of business, seconded by Mrs. Thompson.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Beck, Menna, Bifani, Thompson, Polonsky.

Nays: None

Absent: Hintelmann

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

Mary Mann, Director of the RiverCenter Special Improvement District, presented the organization's proposed 2001 budget.

Councilwoman Beck asked for an overview of the group's plans for 2001. Ms. Mann said they planned to continue existing programs such as marketing the downtown, pursuing grant money and public relations. She said they planned to continue "bricks and mortar" improvement of the downtown, but a specific project had not been determined yet. They have bid out the maintenance of the district. Customer recruitment would be a priority and the annual Media Party had tentatively been scheduled for April 27. Website is up. Outreach to the community saw a cost savings with changing over to e-mail/fax from traditional postage. Holiday decoration hanging is in the budget, but a fund raiser is planned to cover repair and replacement. Administrative costs are up slightly as the rent has doubled.

Councilwoman Thompson asked about the status of the proposed Visitor's Center. Ms. Mann said \$600 a month is budgeted for rent to be housed in the Train Station and they are currently working on a lease with NJ Transit. No budget has been set for operations. No firm date for opening.

Councilwoman Beck asked about planned Capital Projects. Ms. Mann said projects being considered included expansion of Streetscape and Garbage Route Pickup. The Executive Committee will meet next week to determine. Councilwoman Beck asked if there would be an additional assessment to property owners. Ms. Mann said it was too early to know.

Councilwoman Thompson said there had been complaints about the crosswalk at Monmouth and Broad and asked if there were plans to smooth or cut it. Ms. Mann said the project is under Capital Improvements and that they are getting estimates on various ways to correct it.

Councilman Menna suggested beefing up maintenance and making the district look its best. He suggested sweeping sidewalks once or twice daily. Ms. Mann noted that they have contracted sweeping twice a week for \$20,000. Daily would cost considerably more. Menna suggested urging the store owners to take responsibility. Ms. Mann noted that the request has been made. Mayor McKenna added that storeowners should be encouraged to go further than just the front of their stores.

Councilwoman Beck asked for a Wayfinding proposal update. Ms. Mann noted that Gail O'Reilly worked with a design firm to finalize design specifications. Purchasing Agent is getting ready to advertise for bids.

01-29 Mayor McKenna read "A RESOLUTION ADOPTING 2001 BUDGET OF THE SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT".

Mr. Menna offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Polonsky.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Beck, Menna, Bifani, Thompson, Polonsky.

Nays: None

Absent: Hintelmann

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

RESUME REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mrs. Thompson offered a motion to resume the regular order of business, seconded by Mr. Polonsky.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Beck, Menna, Bifani, Thompson, Polonsky.

Nays: None

Absent: Hintelmann

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

WORKSHOP

Historical Commission – Councilman Menna suggested the Borough consider adopting a Borough Appointed Historical Commission. The current group, which has existed since 1920, is volunteer. The Commission could review planning documents and offer input to Planning Board or Mayor and Council. Councilwoman Thompson questioned the need. Mayor McKenna said it could be a mixed blessing. He asked Attorney O'Connor to review what the statute provides for such an organization and report on the positives and negatives of such a commission.. He noted that there is currently a Historical Committee on the Planning Board that identifies properties they consider to be historic to be reviewed by the Mayor and Council. Councilwoman Beck said one of the things that is so charming about Red Bank is its older buildings and believes the Commission is something we should look at. McKenna said the expansion of the historic district was addressed with the last Master Plan. He said the town is aggressively pursuing these avenues and they are watching planning applications architecturally in all districts. The Historic Committee of the Planning Board has been serving the purpose. Councilman Bifani noted that the Environmental Resource Inventory includes a section on historic buildings and that old doesn't always mean historic. McKenna suggested the situation be addressed during Master Plan

review. Menna agreed and said the Master Plan encourages such an organization. He also noted that the Commission would provide a sense of community involvement and would not be for the sole purpose of planning and zoning. The current organization is not appointed by the governing body and many members live out of town.

Pat Collins – Administrator Sickels announced the untimely passing of Borough Employee Pat Collins, age 40. He noted he was a devoted employee who held the position of Supervisor of Buildings and Grounds in the Public Works Department and will be greatly missed.

Councilman Bifani commended Collins. McKenna noted that the Borough Employees had taken a collection for the Collins' family and asked Administrator Sickels to send a note of thanks to the employees.

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS

REPORTS OF MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Councilman Menna reported that the Testimonial Dinner for 2000 Fire Chief James Welsh will be held the last Saturday of the month and that Administrator Sickels has tickets. He also announced that Chadwick Henderson, one of the longest serving members of the Red Bank Volunteer Fire Department, with 64 active years, passed away last night.

Councilman Bifani reported that his committee is working on the 2001 Road Program. They are bidding early in the season in hopes of getting a better price. He reviewed the streets to be included in this year's program and noted that, with the State funding, left over money from last year's program and a contribution from New Jersey Natural Gas, the Borough should only have to expend approximately \$150,000 this year. He noted that while last year's program focused on one area for a large impact, this year the work is spread throughout the town. Menna questioned the inclusion of Gold Street. He suggested holding off until the completion of KidsBridge. Engineer Kosenski noted that the improvement is from Drummond Place to Maple Avenue, not eastward. Councilwoman Beck said that she thought road condition was a major concern of residents and commended the committee for its aggressive program and the street choices.

Councilman Bifani also reported that the owner of 266 Shrewsbury Avenue had agreed to donate the side of that building to be painted with a trompe l'oeil painting. This and additional plantings should have a big impact on the park at the corner of West Bergen Place and Shrewsbury Avenue.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS

Mayor McKenna read a request from Eastern Monmouth Area Chamber of Commerce to hold Riverfest on June 1, 2, 3, 2001, pending approval of Special Events Committee.

Mrs. Thompson offered a motion to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Polonsky.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Beck, Menna, Bifani, Thompson, Polonsky.

Nays: None

Absent: Hintelmann

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

Mayor McKenna read a request to hold "Cruising With The Oldies" on May 18, 19, 20, 2001, pending approval of Special Events Committee.

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

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Beck, Menna, Bifani, Thompson, Polonsky.

Nays: None

Absent: Hintelmann

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

Mayor McKenna read a request from Monmouth County SPCA to hold annual dog walk on October 13, 2001 with a rain date of October 14, 2001, pending approval of Special Events Committee.

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

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Beck, Menna, Bifani, Thompson, Polonsky.

Nays: None

Absent: Hintelmann

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

Mayor McKenna read a request from The Red Bank Alliance to Prevent Alcoholism and Drug Abuse to hold 3rd Annual Run Against Drugs on Saturday April 7th from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm, pending approval of Special Events Committee.

Mrs. Thompson offered a motion to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Polonsky.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Beck, Menna, Bifani, Thompson, Polonsky.

Nays: None

Absent: Hintelmann

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

ORDINANCES – First Reading

2001-1 Mayor McKenna read “A BOND ORDINANCE AMENDING BOND ORDINANCE NUMBER 199-15 HERETOFORE FINALLY ADOPTED BY THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY (THE “BOROUGH”), ON MAY 11, 1999 ENTITLED, “BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE UNDERTAKING OF SANITARY SEWER REPLACEMENT ON MONMOUTH STREET, BY THE WATER/SEWER IN, OF AND BY THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK, IN THE COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY (THE “BOROUGH”); APPROPRIATING \$255,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$255,000 BONDS OR NOTES TO FINANCE THE COST THEREOF” AS AMENDED BY BOND ORDINANCE NUMBER 2000-18 FINALLY ADOPTED ON JUNE 14, 2000, TO AMEND THE DESCRIPTION THEREOF.

Public Hearing and final adoption scheduled for January 23, 2001.

Mr. Bifani offered a motion to adopt the ordinance on first reading, seconded by Mr. Polonsky.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Beck, Menna, Bifani, Thompson, Polonsky.

Nays: None

Absent: Hintlemann

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

ORDINANCES – Public Hearing & Final Adoption

RESOLUTIONS

01-9 Mayor McKenna read “A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE BOROUGH TREASURER AS THE CERTIFYING AGENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE PUBLIC RETIREMENT SYSTEM”.

Mr. Polonsky offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mrs. Thompson

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Beck, Menna, Bifani, Thompson, Polonsky.

Nays: None

Absent: Hintlemann

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

01-10 Mayor McKenna read “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH TREASURER TO OPEN AN ACCOUNT IN COMMERCE BANK AND TO SIGN ALL PAYROLL CHECKS”.

Mr. Polonsky offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mrs. Thompson.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Beck, Menna, Bifani, Thompson, Polonsky.

Nays: None

Absent: Hintlemann

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

01-11 Mayor McKenna read “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CREATION OF CHANGE FUNDS”.

Mr. Polonsky offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mrs. Thompson.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Beck, Menna, Bifani, Thompson, Polonsky.

Nays: None

Absent: Hintlemann

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

01-12 Mayor McKenna read “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE HEALTH OFFICER TO OPEN AN ACCOUNT FOR DEPOSITING RECEIPTS OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT”.

Mr. Polonsky offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mrs. Thompson.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Beck, Menna, Bifani, Thompson, Polonsky.

Nays: None

Absent: Hintlemann

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

01-13 Mayor McKenna read “A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING DEPOSITORIES FOR THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK”.

Mr. Polonsky offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mrs. Thompson.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Beck, Menna, Bifani, Thompson, Polonsky.

Nays: None

Absent: Hintlemann

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

01-14 Mayor McKenna read “A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK, COUNTY OF MONMOUTH, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, FIXING THE RATE OF INTEREST TO BE CHARGED ON DELINQUENT TAXES OF ASSESSMENTS”.

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

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Beck, Menna, Bifani, Thompson, Polonsky.

Nays: None

Absent: Hintlemann

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

01-15 Mayor McKenna read “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH TREASURER TO OPEN AN ACCOUNT FOR MAKING PAYMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE REDEMPTION OF TAX TITLE LIENS”.

Mr. Polonsky offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mrs. Thompson.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Beck, Menna, Bifani, Thompson, Polonsky.

Nays: None

Absent: Hintlemann

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

01-16 Mayor McKenna read “A RESOLUTION APPOINTING BRUCE E. LOVERSIDGE AS FUND COMMISSIONER TO CENTRAL JERSEY EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FUND”.

Mrs. Thompson offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Polonsky.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Beck, Menna, Bifani, Thompson, Polonsky.

Nays: None

Absent: Hintlemann

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

01-17 Mayor McKenna read “A RESOLUTION APPOINTING BRUCE E. LOVERSIDGE AS FUND COMMISSIONER TO MONMOUTH COUNTY JOINT INSURANCE FUND”.

Mr. Polonsky offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mrs. Thompson.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Beck, Menna, Bifani, Thompson, Polonsky.

Nays: None

Absent: Hintlemann

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

01-18 Mayor McKenna read “A RESOLUTION APPOINTING BOND COUNSEL FOR THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK”.

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

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Beck, Menna, Bifani, Thompson, Polonsky.

Nays: None

Absent: Hintlemann

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

01-19 Mayor McKenna read “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTRACT FOR DOG WARDEN SERVICES WITH THE BOROUGH OF FAIR HAVEN”.

Councilwoman Beck asked if the contracts were negotiated individually. Administrator Sickels said yes, they were and that they were based on the individual municipality’s ordinance, fees and licensing.

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

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Beck, Menna, Bifani, Thompson, Polonsky.

Nays: None

Absent: Hintlemann

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

01-20 Mayor McKenna read “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTRACT FOR DOG WARDEN SERVICES WITH THE BOROUGH OF LITTLE SILVER”.

Mr. Polonsky offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mrs. Thompson.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Beck, Menna, Bifani, Thompson, Polonsky.

Nays: None

Absent: Hintlemann

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

01-21 Mayor McKenna read “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTRACT FOR DOG WARDEN SERVICES WITH THE TOWNSHIP OF SHREWSBURY”.

Mrs. Thompson offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Polonsky.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Beck, Menna, Bifani, Thompson, Polonsky.

Nays: None

Absent: Hintlemann

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

01-22 Mayor McKenna read “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTRACT FOR DOG WARDEN SERVICES WITH THE BOROUGH OF SHREWSBURY”.

Mrs. Thompson offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Bifani.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Beck, Menna, Bifani, Thompson, Polonsky.

Nays: None

Absent: Hintlemann

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

01-23 Mayor McKenna read “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING HEALTH SERVICES CONTRACT WITH THE BOROUGH OF RUMSON”.

Councilman Polonsky noted that the fees from this contract cover half of the expenses of the Department.

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

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Beck, Menna, Bifani, Thompson, Polonsky.

Nays: None

Absent: Hintlemann

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

01-24 Mayor McKenna read “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING HEALTH SERVICES CONTRACT WITH THE BOROUGH OF FAIR HAVEN”.

Mrs. Thompson offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Polonsky.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Beck, Menna, Bifani, Thompson, Polonsky.

Nays: None

Absent: Hintlemann

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

01-25 Mayor McKenna read “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING HEALTH SERVICES CONTRACT WITH THE BOROUGH OF LITTLE SILVER”.

Mrs. Thompson offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mr. Polonsky

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Beck, Menna, Bifani, Thompson, Polonsky.

Nays: None

Absent: Hintlemann

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

01-26 Mayor McKenna read “A RESOLUTION APPROVING CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN”.

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

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Beck, Menna, Bifani, Thompson, Polonsky.

Nays: None

Absent: Hintlemann

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

01-27 Mayor McKenna read “A RESOLUTION AWARDDING BID FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWO (2) PEN-BASED COMPUTER AND INSPECTION SYSTEMS.

Councilwoman Beck asked for an explanation. Administrator Sickels said the Fire Inspectors during routine inspections would be able to generate a report and download it. There will be no need for notes or typing. This will put the inspection data into report form and decrease time in the field and clerical needs. It is accordance with state standards and will require no increase in staff.

Mr. Polonsky offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mrs. Thompson.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Beck, Menna, Bifani, Thompson, Polonsky.

Nays: None

Absent: Hintlemann

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

01-28 Mayor McKenna read “A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING PARKING FACILITY LEASE/PURCHASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF RED BANK AND RIVERVIEW MEDICAL CENTER REGARDING GLOBE COURT PARKING GARAGE”.

Councilwoman Beck asked for confirmation that no additional bids were received. Attorney O'Connor confirmed that the agreement with hospital was subject to a better offer, however, no additional bids were received. The lease agreement with the hospital will begin February 1, 2001. Mayor McKenna noted that this was the second time bids were requested and that no bids were received the first time either.

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

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Beck, Menna, Bifani, Thompson, Polonsky.

Nays: None

Absent: Hintlemann

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

01-30 Mayor McKenna read “A RESOLUTION AWARDDING CONTRACT REGARDING BASKETBALL AND SOCCER UNIFORMS AND EQUIPMENT”.

Mr. Bifani offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mrs. Thompson.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Beck, Menna, Bifani, Thompson, Polonsky.

Nays: None

Absent: Hintlemann

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

01-31 Mayor McKenna read “A RESOLUTION FOR PAYMENT OF BILLS AMOUNTING TO \$1,671,788.69”.

Mr. Polonsky offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mrs. Thompson.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Beck, Menna, Bifani, Thompson, Polonsky.

Nays: None

Absent: Hintlemann

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

01-32 Mayor McKenna read “A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF FUNDS”.

Mr. Polonsky offered a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mrs. Thompson.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Beck, Menna, Bifani, Thompson, Polonsky.

Nays: None

Absent: Hintlemann

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

PROCLAMATIONS

OLD BUSINESS

Councilwoman Beck noted that the lease agreement with the Hospital will generate significant revenue for 20 years and asked that it be used toward tax relief since she felt this was a common complaint of downtown business owners. Mayor McKenna said he has spoken with Chief Financial Officer Loveridge and that as of October there had been \$6.9 million in added assessments. McKenna also said Councilman Polonsky had been looking into tax relief and stabilizing taxes but we needed to be careful with tax cuts. He also noted that he felt the number one issue to downtown business owners was parking, not tax relief. This revenue could help to provide for additional parking without additional burden on the residents. He said the Borough's goal is to make Red Bank better in conjunction with the budgeting process. When the results of the revaluation are in, we should sit down and take a look at the effect on taxpayers.

Councilwoman Beck suggested Wayfinding/Signage could alleviate some parking problems and asked about the signs that were supposed to go behind Restoration Hardware noting that it's parking lot was open to the public. Engineer Kosenski said the signs were being corrected.

Councilwomen Beck again stressed tax relief. Mayor McKenna said that relief should come from the state legislature and the Governor's Office and gave examples of lack of support on the state level for items such as tax exempt properties and inter-local services rewards for only new programs rather than existing. Councilwoman Beck responded that Red Bank has received municipal aid for the last eight years and that by seeking status as a Regional Center, it makes the town attractive to not for profits. She also noted that the Governor has cut taxes. McKenna pointed out that the Borough has received \$10 million in Capital Improvements as a result of Regional Center status and that Property Tax Relief was different than the Governor's tax cuts.

NEW BUSINESS

AUDIENCE

Councilman Menna made a motion to close the public portion of the meeting. Councilwoman Beck seconded.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

01-33 The Attorney read “A RESOLUTION TO ADJOURN TO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL AND PROPERTY ACQUISITION”.

Mr. Menna offered a motion, seconded by Mr. Polonsky to adjourn to executive session to discuss personnel and property acquisition. Minutes to be made public in 180 days.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Beck, Menna, Bifani, Thompson, Polonsky.

Nays: None

Absent: Hintlemann

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

ADJOURMENT

Mr. Menna offered a motion, seconded by Ms. Beck to adjourn the meeting.

ROLL CALL:

Ayes: Beck, Menna, Bifani, Thompson, Polonsky.

Nays: None

Absent: Hintlemann

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

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Vivona