

Borough of Tenafly

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MINUTES

TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2013

At 7:30 p.m. Mayor Rustin read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement: "In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act P.L. 1975, chapter 231, the notice requirements have been satisfied. The meeting dates for the year are confirmed at the Annual Meeting, are posted on the public bulletin board in the lobby of the Municipal Center, and published in the Record within the first 10 days of the New Year."

Present: Mayor Peter S. Rustin

Council members: Barry Honig (arrived at 7:35 p.m.), Martha Kerge, Nadia LaMastra, Jon Warms, Mark Zinna

Borough Administrator: Jewel Thompson-Chin
Borough Attorney: William R. McClure, Esq.

Absent: Council member Anthony Barzelatto

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mayor Rustin read the following statement:

Public Comments: A total of 15 minutes has been allocated for this purpose. Citizens are welcome to address the Mayor and Council on any governmental item of concern to them, whether or not it is scheduled on the agenda below. Citizens must give their names and addresses when recognized to speak. Large groups are urged to select someone to represent them. The public is advised that these meetings are recorded and are subject to the Open Public Records Act.

No one came forward

TO BE CONSIDERED

Fees for Outside Employment Details – Police

Mrs. Thompson-Chin noted that increasing the fees was raised during the Police Department budget meeting. Mayor Rustin recommended charging one price if the detail will be three hours or less and a different rate for full day duty. Mrs. Aportela-Hernandez commented that the auditors recommended that when this fee is amended, that the rate of pay for the officer also be codified. Council directed the Borough Administrator to review with the Police Chief and Chief Financial Officer and then list for a further discussion at a future work session.

Request for Scheduling of Special Meeting – April 23rd for Tenafly Nature Center Presentation

Council directed the Borough Clerk to coordinate the scheduling of the meeting. Mayor Rustin clarified that in addition to the presentation, there is a Green Acres public hearing which is only to obtain comments. It is not the same as a Council public hearing. No formal action will be taken that evening. Council directed the Borough Administrator to post a notice of the meeting on the electronic message board.

Tenafly Nature Center Project Review Process

Mr. McClure has been in contact with Green Acres to review the complex notification process, which requires a legal advertisement 30 days in advance, the posting of signs by the Nature Center advising of the public comment period, the publication of a display ad in the paper 15 days before the hearing, and the receipt of written

comments after the hearing. Mr. McClure reiterated that the Green Acres hearing portion of the April 23rd meeting is just to solicit public comment. Council can only act on whether to approve the change of use 90 days after the hearing date. At that time, the lease can be executed since it grants the right to the change of use. Mr. McClure stated that this process is a long period with extensive notification. Actual plans for building not required, just the identification of the amount of area to be involved in the project, the building envelope and general indication of rooms. He indicated that the most significant change to lease required was to include that upon renewal, Green Acres is to be notified of renewal for their approval.

Mayor Rustin stated that the state is requiring the Nature Center to place a 4x8 billboard indicating notice of the Green Acres public hearing at the site of the project. Due to the location of the site, there is a high speed limit and nowhere to park, he recommends that a billboard be placed at the center of town as well. Mr. McClure commented that Green Acres indicated that the billboard can be put in a different location than the site of the project.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Thompson-Chin advised that she received the zoning and analysis report from the Borough Engineer using the 5 properties identified by Council and that in the majority of cases, the properties identified would have met the proposed zoning recommendations regarding height and combined side yard set-back had they been codified. After Council discussed the results, Mayor Rustin advised that he will share this analysis with the Planning Board for their review and comment.

OLD BUSINESS

At this time, Chief Philpott addressed Council regarding the need to include the purchase of radios in the capital budget for the Fire Department. He explained that the Fire Department has been working on obtaining a new frequency for the past 4 to 5 years, which resulted in the antennas on fire tower and cabling being replaced. He advised that the Fire Department cannot communicate on the low band frequencies currently in use and the radios are over 20 years old and cannot be repaired. The Fire Department currently has 16 new radios, but cannot switch over to the ultra-high frequency and get the system operational until everyone has a radio.

Council authorized that \$75,000 be added to the capital budget for the purchase of the radios for the Fire Department. Mrs. Thompson-Chin will reinforce with the department heads that multi-year projects must be presented as such.

Mrs. Aportela-Hernandez advised that she received a quote for iPads for paperless agendas. Mrs. Thompson-Chin noted that she has received policies regarding the use of tablets which Council requested that it be forwarded to the Borough Attorney for review and preparation of a Borough policy. Council authorized the expenditure of the tablet, but Mrs. Thompson-Chin commented that she will have the CFO review with bond counsel to determine if the expenditure can be a capital or operating expense.

The 2013 Municipal Budget will be introduced on March 12th and is scheduled for adoption for April 30th in accordance with the state's revised deadlines for calendar year municipalities.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business to come before the Council, on a motion by C. Warms, second by C. Honig, and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lissette Aportela-Hernandez, MPA, RMC
Borough Clerk