

Borough of Tenafly

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MINUTES

TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 2015

At 7:31 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. 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, published in the Record within the first 10 days of the New Year, and copies are sent to the Suburbanite and Northern Valley Press."

Present: Mayor Peter S. Rustin

Council members: Anthony Barzelatto (arrived at 7:36 p.m.), Maxim Basch, Nadia LaMastra, Daniel Park, Paul Stefanowicz

Borough Administrator: Jewel Thompson-Chin

Borough Attorney: William R. McClure, Esq.

Absent: Councilmember Mark Zinna

TO BE CONSIDERED

Tenafly High School Teen Leads Club – Ideas for the Downtown

The students from Mr. Matthew Mirabito's Contemporary Issues class were assigned a project to work on a local need. The students sought for ways to revitalize the downtown. The students who worked on the project were: Sophie Chan, Maya Fromm, Emma Fitzpatrick, Paul Greenway, John Testa, Robert Mikesh, Rachel Strompf, and Jahnvi Upreti. They sought the project as a guide to inspire changes.

The students conducted a survey at the high school and received 400 responses. The responses focused on cuisines. The businesses that were proposed were Jamba Juice, Cosi, Teavana, Chop't, and Sprinkles Cupcakes. The students addressed how vacant lots can accommodate those businesses.

The students also presented a 3-D design for the proposed Sgt. Nicholas Oresko Memorial Park. Their rendering included adding bushes in the perimeter, picnic tables, the memorial as the centerpiece, study areas, ping pong tables, a charging/Wi-Fi station, and lighting in the pathways for nighttime use, such as concerts and movie nights.

The students recommended more special events, such as street fairs, carnivals, concerts, sporting events and farmer's market. They are seeking cheaper food and a later night life after 6pm. With regards to visibility, they suggested shop & dine guides, student organization discount cards, on street directory kiosks. They referenced Montclair's website. They concluded their presentation with recommending the use of holiday themed shops for vacant locations, as well as more usage of social media forums, longer hours, charging stations, free Wi-Fi, and a text alert system for events.

C. LaMastra commended the students on the beautiful work for the memorial design, but emphasized that it is supposed to be a solemn place. The students stated that the concept was based on parks in Europe and believed that activity attracts visibility and more people will notice the memorial.

C. Basch noted that the students requested that stores be kept open until 11 and inquired if they had any locations in mind. The students responded that they would like to see Brasserie, Chez Cheese, Mandu Café, Simply Vietnamese, and Foova open until later in the evening.

C. Park inquired if the students evaluated mom & pop shops or other independent establishments. The students noted that the prices to rent out a store are too expensive for small scale establishments.

Christine Evron – President of the Chamber of Commerce commended the students on their presentation and emphasized using the Borough website as a source of knowledge for events.

Mary Hudson – Bergen Leads noted that the parents of these students should be proud.

Stephanie Pasternak – President of the BID invited the students to an organizational meeting and commended them on their initiative.

Mayor Rustin commented that the presentation was impressive, Mr. Mirabito deserves a tremendous amount of credit and the students gave great ideas. He noted that Tenafly is fortunate to have such students and parents in the community.

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.

Hercules Venetis – 3 Columbus Drive – inquired of the Charles Atlas event can be incorporated into the Mayor’s Wellness campaign. Mayor Rustin responded that he will give the director’s contact information to discuss in greater detail.

Lorraine Kapakjian – noted that more neighbors of Foster Road will attend meetings soon and asked Council if a dog park chain-link fence how they seek to welcome people to the municipal complex.

Kevin Tremble – 81 Westervelt Avenue – described the Bergen Leads event he attended that discussed revitalizing downtown areas.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

DPW UST Closure Update by Borough Engineer

Borough Engineer, Mr. Hipolit provided an update on the UST closure process. He stated that when the tanks were removed, soil and contamination testing were not conducted to complete the process. Based on the current evaluation, not all of the contaminated soil was removed. While the levels are low, the contaminated soil still needs to be removed. He noted that funds need to be reallocated in order to install additional monitoring wells, for soil removal, and for additional testing and interaction with DEP. While he needs to confer with the architect, he estimated that to complete the UST closure process, it will cost \$150,000. However, it will not change the total budget and soil removal can be put into the contract for bidding.

Engineering proposals

Mrs. Thompson-Chin noted that the following items are for the implementation of various grants that have been applied for and awarded or items that have been previously considered by Council.

- 2014 CDBG Grant Implementation – Senior Center ADA Ramp & Rear Door
- 2014 County Open Space Grant Implementation – Griffin Park ADA & Park Improvements

Mr. Hipolit noted that for Griffin Park, he is coordinating with the vendor for a different structure than Froggy Park that will include more interactive and imaginative play. He is working with the AFA Committee on this project.

- 2014 HMPG Generator Grant Implementation – Municipal Complex and Senior Center

C. Barzelatto inquired when the project would be completed. Mr. Hipolit responded that he anticipates the generators to be installed by October and if there are any delays, it will be no later than this winter.

- Bergen County Cooperative Curb Ramp Program
- 2015 Micro-Surfacing Road Improvement Program

C. Basch inquired if the Borough can obtain a price lower than state contract. Mrs. Thompson-Chin explained that micro-surfacing was put out to bid through the Riverside Co-Op and the state contract is a lower price.

- Riveredge Road Mid-Block Crossing Feasibility Study

The study is based on a recommendation from Chief Chamberlain. Mr. Hipolit explained that the Department of Transportation has very specific guidelines that must be followed and certified by the Borough Engineer.

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Rustin recognized Borough Attorney William McClure, who read into the record Resolution 15-185.

BE IT RESOLVED in compliance with NJSA 10:4-12, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Tenafly are going into Closed Executive Session to discuss the following matters:

- A. Personnel
 - 1. Position of Chief Financial Officer

Minutes will be taken of the meeting and released to the public at the time that the matter is resolved. After Closed Executive Session, the Mayor and Council will reconvene in the Richard D. Wilson Committee Room to resume this public meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Council, on a motion from C. LaMastra, seconded by C. Park, and all present voting in favor, the meeting was recessed to the Closed Session at 9:05 p.m.

The Work Session resumed at 9:55 p.m.

TO BE CONSIDERED (continued)

Recreation Program Participant Fee Exceptions

Mrs. Thompson-Chin advised that the auditor is recommending a resolution confirming the policy that is in place. The resolution will be listed for the June 16th consent agenda.

Youth Services Department “Loyalty and Family Discount”

A resolution confirming the policy in place will be listed for the June 16th consent agenda.

BID Subcommittee Update

C. LaMastra advised that the subcommittee met yesterday and recommends a maximum of 7 members in which 2 are members of the governing body, 3 Council appointments, and 2 are selected by the BID. The subcommittee also recommend stipend for administrative staff. C. LaMastra noted that the BID will focus more on economic development rather than marketing. Mrs. Thompson-Chin expressed concern that the administrative aspect for the staff member seems to be more than what board secretaries do. This topic will be held for further discussion, after the job description of the administrative staff member is defined and a cost for the role has been determined.

9/11 Ceremony

C. Barzelatto advised that he is coordinating a 9/11 ceremony involving the Fire Department, Police, and TVAC at the monument in the evening of September 11th. He will provide further information as the ceremony program develops.

CORRESPONDENCE

Tenafly Nature Center RE: Boundary Walk
Council acknowledged the annual boundary walk letter prepared by the Nature Center.

L. Kapakjian RE: Proposed Dog Park Site
Council determined to look at a sites other than Foster Road.

NJ League of Municipalities RE: Convention Reservation
Council directed the Borough Clerk to prepare the reservations for the annual convention.

R. Lindsay RE: DPW Commendation
Council acknowledged the letter from the resident commending the Department of Public Works.

S. Cichalski RE: Driveway Piers
Mrs. Thompson-Chin advised that this matter is pending the review of the DPW Director and Borough Engineer. A site visit was conducted. She will provide an update upon receipt of the review.

RESOLUTIONS for meeting of June 16, 2015:

- A. Approve Expenditures as of June 10, 2015
- B. Authorize Refund – Use of Davis-Johnson Park
- C. Appoint Municipal Representatives to the Community Development Regional Committee
- D. Appoint Municipal Representatives to the Open Space Trust Municipal Program Regional Committee
- E. Amend #R15-180 – Fingerprint Reimbursement Refund
- F. Approve Outdoor Seating Application - Emanu-El Delicatessen

- G. Oppose User-Friendly Budget
- H. Authorize Street Opening Bond Refunds – Various
- I. Cancel Street Opening Bond Refund – Permit #1100
- J. Authorize Refund – Use of Garden Room
- K. Authorize Receipt of Bids – Tenafly DPW Administration Building
- L. Authorize Refund – Engineering Escrow – 149 Oak Street
- M. Authorize Refund – Engineering Escrow – 118 Newcomb Road
- N. Authorize Refund – Tree Mitigation Escrow – 55 Hudson Avenue
- O. Authorize Refund – Engineering Escrow – 93 Prospect Terrace

OLD BUSINESS

Resolution of Appreciation for Law Enforcement Officers

Council determined to prepare a proclamation to be signed by all members of the governing body and read at the Community Night event and presented to the Police Department.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

- C. Barzelatto recommended that the governing body consider privatizing recycling. In doing so, DPW staff can be reallocated for other functions. The department is down in manpower and it will reduce the wear and tear on expensive vehicles. Council authorized the Borough Administrator and DPW Director to evaluate this concept.
- C. Basch noted that more funds need to be budgeted for repaving of streets. Council directed the Borough Administrator to inquire with the Borough Engineer on how much should be allocated for next year’s capital budget and not to make big vehicle purchases.
- C. Barzelatto recommended that Council reconsider the quantity of signs and/or duration period that are permitted in the authorized temporary locations.
- C. Barzelatto noted that more and more properties have overgrown grass and stated that the Borough needs more resources for code enforcement.

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Rustin recognized Borough Attorney William McClure, who read into the record Resolution 15-186.

BE IT RESOLVED in compliance with NJSA 10:4-12, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Tenafly are going into Closed Executive Session to discuss the following matters:

- A. Personnel
 - 1. Staffing at DPW, Finance Department, and the Building Department
- B. Contract Negotiations
 - 1. Update on DPW Supervisors

Minutes will be taken of the meeting and released to the public at the time that the matter is resolved. After Closed Executive Session, the Mayor and Council will reconvene in the Richard D. Wilson Committee Room to adjourn this public meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Council, on a motion from C. LaMastra, seconded by C. Stefanowicz, and all present voting in favor, the meeting was adjourned to the Closed Session at 10:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business to come before the Council, on a motion by C. Basch, second by C. LaMastra, and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lissette Aportela,
MPA, RMC, CMC
Borough Clerk