

Borough of Tenafly

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MINUTES

TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2016

At 7:35 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 8:25 p.m.), Maxim Basch, Daniel Park and Mark Zinna

Borough Administrator: Jewel Thompson-Chin

Borough Attorney: William R. McClure, Esq.

Absent: Councilmembers Shama Haider and Paul Stefanowicz

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

Parking on Northside of Hillside Avenue

Chief Chamberlain described the traffic conditions of the T-intersection on Hillside Avenue. The street is narrow, but there is room for 2-way traffic. There is only an issue if cars are parked past the yellow lines. Mayor Rustin noted that if someone is coming out of the BP gas station and if there are cars are parked at those 2 spaces at the car dealership, navigating out of the station is difficult. Chief Chamberlain explained that the traffic is controlled by a traffic light at the intersection. He stated that he is not opposed to eliminating parking to eliminate congestion in the area, but there is not a sight issue. Council determined to wait for Chief Chamberlain's formal written recommendation on the matter.

Franklin Lakes Drug Amnesty Policy

Chief Chamberlain advised that he reviewed the resolution C. Park had forwarded to him and spoke with the Franklin Lakes police chief. Chief Pezzuti was asked by township officials what can be done to address the drug abuse problem. Chief Chamberlain reviewed the resolution and policy with Mr. McClure and the vagueness of the document presents issues. Mr. McClure added that the problem with the policy Franklin Lake has adopted is that it is beyond the authority of the governing body to not enforce the law. Chief Chamberlain commented that a local government can restrict a state regulation, but cannot loosen it. Mr. McClure noted that the policy suggests that if someone communicates to the police that someone else is an addict, the police follow-up will not result in an arrest. It is misleading because while it is not a crime to be addicted, it is a crime to possess a controlled substance. Chief Chamberlain stated that he is reluctant to do something similar without further research and will reach out to Acting Bergen County Prosecutor Grewal. C. Park will bring this issue for discussion at the next CAP meeting. Council discussed adopting a resolution to encourage those with addiction problems to come forward and seek assistance. Chief Chamberlain recommended that the Borough needs to take more proactive and educational action while staying within legal parameters.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- Mrs. Thompson-Chin advised that since a federal disaster declaration was issued for Snowstorm Jonas, the Borough is eligible for FEMA reimbursement. At this point, the costs associated with the storm are being gathered from DPW, the fire department, the police department and TVAC.
- The Borough received an award letter from NJDOT for last year's application to repave the second part of Jefferson Avenue. The grant award is for \$155,000 and the project will be implemented for next year's capital program.
- With regards to the telephone system, there were 4 bidders. Presidio was disqualified because the company did not have a particular certification. Eastern Datacom was the successful bidder and the Board of Education is recommending moving forward with the combined system. C. Basch inquired about the specifications and requested if the consultant can attend a meeting before voting on the project. Mrs. Thompson-Chin responded that she will forward the bid specs and coordinate to have the Board of Education and consultant conduct a post-bid presentation.
- The pads have been installed for the generators and the equipment is on order, which should arrive in a couple of weeks. The municipal complex generator will arrive about 3 weeks before the Senior Center's generator. Mayor Rustin emphasized that the McCandless Room and Senior Center will be warming shelters where residents can charge electronics and socialize, but that the locations will not be shelters for people to sleep and bathe. These locations have not approved by the Red Cross as a 24-hour shelter.
- The county's open space hearing for various applications, which included the Borough's submission for a matching grant for the playground equipment for upper Griffin Park, was held on March 28th. The Borough is waiting for Freeholders to vote on the application for final approval.

CORRESPONDENCE

Senator Weinberg RE: Port Authority Bus Terminal Resolution
Council acknowledged the thank you letter from Senator Weinberg. Mayor Rustin commented that supporting a new Port Authority bus terminal is an important issue because the Borough has a significant number of residents who commute

B. Morrison RE: Block Party Request
Council approved the block party request. The Borough Clerk will notify the resident.

RESOLUTIONS for meeting of April 12, 2016:

- A. Authorize Refund – Engineering Escrow – 12 Illingworth Avenue
- B. Authorize Refund – Tax Court Judgment – Block 501, Lot 15.01
- C. Authorize Sale of Surplus Property
- D. Authorize Refund – Street Opening Permits – Various
- E. Oppose the Findings of the Roadmap to Resolution Report dated February 24, 2015
- F. Authorize Return of Performance Bond and Reduction of Engineering Escrow – PB#1-13-16
- G. Approve Raffle Application – RA 1135
- H. Authorize Tree Mitigation Escrow Refund – 88 Norman Place
- I. Authorize Tree Mitigation Escrow Refund – 69 Leonard Avenue
- J. Authorize Tree Mitigation Escrow Refund – 12 Illingworth Avenue
- K. Authorize Tree Mitigation Escrow Refund – 12 Illingworth Avenue

OLD BUSINESS

Huyler Park Sound System Update

Chamber of Commerce President, Mrs. Evron advised that the cost of the sound system is below \$15,000, which includes a permanent structure in the flower bed facing north and west and portable stands for speakers for special events, such as Memorial Day. Mrs. Thompson-Chin inquired who will work the equipment at the events. After discussion, Council determined that the parties who are involved for any events would need to work on sound system and approved the expenditure.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

- Mayor Rustin described the subdivision application being reviewed by the Planning Board for the property in Peter Lynas Court, which is a cul-de-sac off of Hudson Avenue. One of the parts of the property includes a house that has historical value. The property has not been declared historic, but it was onetime a barn and has been used as a home that has been improved. He inquired if there was interest among Council to consider spending open space funds to save the property where the house is located and create a passive park. C. Zinna encouraged Council to take a look at the house located at 19 Peter Lynas Court. C. Barzelatto commented that the Borough should save the open space funds for expenditures towards a new senior center.
- Mayor Rustin passed along pictures of the proposed renovation of Stop & Shop. He advised that the supermarket will be closing on April 14th for 4-6 weeks.
- C. Barzelatto advised that the fire department is working on the budget associated with the Northern Valley Chief's Parade. He requested an official approval of the event. A resolution approving the parade request will be listed on next week's consent agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business to come before the Council, on a motion by C. Zinna , second by C. Park, and unanimously carried, to adjourn this meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lissette Aportela,
MPA, RMC, CMC
Borough Clerk