

**WORK SHOP MEETING AGENDA
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
January 5, 2017**

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Statement of Compliance with Open Public Meetings Act. *This meeting complies with the Open Public Meeting Act by notification on January 2, 2017 of this location, date and time to the Asbury Park Press and the LINK News and by the posting of same on the municipal bulletin board and Borough Web Site*

FLAG SALUTE:

INVOCATION:

ROLL CALL:

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

1. Resolution authorizing redemption of Tax Sale Certificate #16-00002
2. Resolution authorizing redemption of Tax Sale Certificate #16-00023
3. Resolution rejecting all bids for the 2016 Bulkhead Improvements project
4. Resolution extending the contract with Nicholas H. Teetelli Consulting Services
5. Resolution authorizing participation in the OEM DOD Surplus Equipment Program
6. Resolution authorizing Inter-local Agreement with City of Long Branch for Fire Prevention Services
7. Resolution awarding towing contracts for 2017
8. Approval of the Workshop Meeting Minutes of December 1, 2016
9. Approval of the Executive Session Minutes of December 1, 2016
10. Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of December 15, 2016
11. Discussion – Blackberry Bay Park Osprey Nest

MAYOR'S REPORT:

PETITIONS FROM THE PUBLIC:

ADJOURNMENT

**WORK SHOP MEETING MINUTES
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT
January 5, 2017**

The Workshop Meeting of the Oceanport Mayor and Council was called to order on January 5, 2017 at 7:08 P.M. with the Statement of Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act given by Mayor Coffey.

"Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by notice to the Asbury Park Press and The Link News on January 2, 2017, and by the posting of same on the municipal bulletin board and Borough Web Site."

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Coffey led the audience and members of the Council in the flag salute.

INVOCATION: Borough Chaplain Stacy Deerin gave the invocation

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilpersons Briskey, Cooper, Gallo, Kahle, Irace, Solan and Mayor Coffey

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Borough Clerk, Jeanne Smith, Borough Attorney, Scott Arnette, Borough Administrator Raymond Poerio

Oath of Office: Mayor Coffey administered the ceremonial swearing in of Councilman Stephan Solan.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Mr. Poerio asked if there were any questions regarding Items 1 through 10 for which Council had no questions. He advised that Item 11 will be discussed at the end of his report. The Monmouth County Freeholders notified the Borough that it was awarded a \$250,000 grant to be used for the acquisition of the new municipal complex for preservation of open space on Ft. Monmouth property. Oceanport was one of only two municipalities in the County to receive this grant. He expressed his thanks for the support of the Freeholders, in particular Mr. Thomas Arnone. Mr. Poerio's next topic was the financing of the municipal complex, explained the need to bond, the necessary 5% down payment and its impact on future budgets and taxes, advising however, that there was available the ability to apply to the Local Finance Board for a waiver of the 5% down payment but in order to do so the Bond Ordinance itself would need to have been introduced thus on the Regular Agenda for consideration. Mr. Poerio further explained the subsequent steps, partial funding was allocated in 2016 for construction document preparation. Mr. Poerio requested Council's approval to schedule the architect to make a presentation for the public at the January 19th meeting for which there were no objections. Councilman Irace asked Mr. Poerio to provide an explanation as to why the Borough was borrowing \$11 million when construction was not going to cost that much. Mr. Poerio responded with details including anticipated revenues of approximately \$5.3 million to be received from FEMA, originally only \$3.9 million; the sale of old Borough Hall and the \$250,000 grant from the County with an estimated total of approximately \$7,237,000. Mr. Poerio continued with details of the expenditures including the purchase of the property, demolition, site work, installing a generator and renovations of existing buildings for approximately \$8.4 million. Alternate expenditures could include repaving the asphalt, installing cost-efficient LED lighting, upgrading HVAC systems which could cost approximately \$2 million. Finally, expenditures would also include architectural and professional fees. Councilman Irace noted that Borough Hall would be increasing from 8,500 sq. feet to a 40,000 sq. foot municipal complex, which will also include Public Works, Police, Senior Center, Community Center and library.

Mr. Poerio stated that Councilman Briskey asked that the Blackberry Bay siren/osprey nest be on the agenda. He has asked Mr. White, Borough Engineer, to attend the January 19th meeting to discuss the options available. Councilman Briskey stated there is an osprey nest on top of the emergency alert system. Its presence has caused issues regarding the volume. Ben Hurst for Fish & Wildlife gave the

Borough a guideline that says the volume is high, but Councilman Briskey commented that a guideline is not a law. In addition, grass isn't being mowed which impedes the soccer fields. He recommends applying for a DEP permit to decommission the nest and moving it to a reedy area on Seawaneka. JCP&L has a relocation program for osprey nests. There was discussion regarding the placement of the osprey nest. Mr. Poerio suggested meeting with Councilman Briskey and Mr. White to review the matter. There was further discussion regarding placing sirens on Ft. Monmouth property. OEM Director "Buzz" Baldanza present in the audience advised that there are sirens on that property, but the system was removed. The Borough's system would have to be integrated to that.

Councilman Briskey asked if Mr. Poerio had investigated using Eatontown for Fire Prevention Services rather than Long Branch. Mr. Poerio stated that he met with the leaders of the fire committee and discussed the issue. They were comfortable staying with Long Branch.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Coffey advised of a request for a proclamation in support of School Choice Week. He will distribute a proposed proclamation to Council members for review. The Mayor discussed a resolution that would oppose legislation that would not address the COAH Gap obligation. He reported that JCP&L is conducting County reliability project and building a redundancy on an old rail line. It does not involve Oceanport, but JCP&L is seeking support from municipalities. Mayor Coffey will provide letter for the Council members to review, and if approved on the 19th, send it to the utility company. Howell, other municipalities and the Board of Chosen Freeholders are supporting a file and complaint by the N.J. Association of Counties with the N.J. Council on local mandates regarding the latest criminal justice reform. The legislation involves a new method of calculating bail, which will force municipalities to invest a great deal of money. A resolution opposing unfunded mandates for bail reform will be on the agenda for January 19th.

Mayor Coffey announced that he will be recommending former Councilman John Patti to fill the Municipal Court Judge position, a three-year term. He invited discussion from the Councilmembers. Councilman Briskey asked how the Council could, in accordance with the Borough Ordinance, give advice and consent to the Mayor on the appointment as this was the first official announcement. Mayor Coffey advised that the language means the Council has the authority to vote to approve or deny. There was extensive and heated discussion regarding conflict of interest, ethical concerns, public perception, political parties and communication. At one point Mayor Coffey made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councilwoman Cooper but did not pass. Discussion continued on ethics, whether Monmouth County's policy of a one year wait applied which Mr. Arnette opined did not apply to the Borough, Mr. Patti's qualifications, and examples of similar judge appointments. Councilman Irace commented that there had been no discussion on his qualifications and stated he *is* eminently qualified and it's a part time position with no benefits.

Mayor Coffey closed the topic after reiterating Mr. Patti's qualifications, his passion for the law and commitment to Oceanport and his desire to become a Judge and should the vote on his nomination be a tie that he would vote

Mayor Coffey stated that the Borough has two vacant positions for Class II police officers. Mr. Poerio advised there were three remaining candidates. The Mayor advised he will make a motion to authorize offering employment to Phillip Gallo, one of the remaining candidates and hopefully, another during the January 19th meeting. Councilman Irace noted that Phillip Gallo is well qualified for the position.

PUBLIC:

Mayor Coffey then opened the meeting to anyone from the public who wished to be heard.

Debra Sharkey, 437 River St., commented that Councilwoman Cooper was rude because she was texting on her phone while the Mayor was speaking to her.

Gary LaBruno, 50 Wyandotte Ave., asked if there was any plan to remove vehicles from the former public works property. Mr. Poerio replied that the Borough is in the process of inventorying its equipment and then approval from Council to authorize the removal of the equipment. That project should be completed within a month or two. Mr. LaBruno asked if the judgeship is a mayoral appointment. Mayor Coffey advised it was a political appointment. Mr. LaBruno asked why the appointment wasn't made on January 1st when mayoral appointees are normally made. Mayor Coffey stated because the vote would have been 3-2 against the appointment. Mr. LaBruno asked if any other candidates were interviewed. Mayor Coffey had reviewed two resumes, both of which applicants are current municipal court Judges. Mayor Coffey explained his reasons for recommending Mr. Patti. The question was raised and Mayor Coffey answered the judgeship does not provide benefits or a pension.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m. on a motion by Councilman Irace seconded by Councilwoman Kahle and approved by Council.

Respectfully submitted,

JEANNE SMITH
BOROUGH CLERK