

MAY 3, 2010

A Work Session Meeting of the Manasquan Mayor and Council was held on May 3rd, 2010 at 7:06 p.m., in Council Chambers of Borough Hall.

Mayor Dempsey related that this meeting is being held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1975 and that notice was given to the Coast Star and the Asbury Park Press on December 22, 2009.

ROLL CALL: Present: Council Members Bossone, Connolly, Donovan, Grasso, Lee, Lucas.

Also present was Borough Attorney James Kinneally and Borough Administrator John Trengrove.

Absent: None.

APPOINTMENTS: 7:00 p.m. Jeffrey Surenian, Esq., Donna McBarron, Esq. and Richard Cramer regarding COAH Update. (**Closed Session #1**)

The Borough Attorney presented a resolution authorizing the Governing Body to meet in Closed Session.

Council Member Lucas made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Council Member Lee. Motion carried unanimously.

The work session meeting was reconvened at 7:43 p.m.

ITEM #1. Snow Removal Ordinance Enforcement.

Council Member Grasso related that Mr. Hamilton is retiring in June and he thanked him for his service to the community. He wished him well in the future.

Council Member Grasso related that he was thinking of creating a qualification for senior citizens, handicapped individuals and single mothers to qualify for snow removal on their sidewalks and maybe on their own personal property. He related that youths from the key club, girl and boy scouts and other similar type organizations could help those that qualify for snow removal. He related that they will get community service credits and will report in and hopefully the work can be lined up near their streets where a team of four or five can take care of the snow. He related that this year's snow was devastating and the DPW did a great job removing the majority of the snow. He related that the other suggestion is strict enforcement of the law. He related that the Code Department will have to go door to door and tell people to remove the snow after 16 hours. He related that he is looking for suggestions and answers from the other Council Members. He related that if they don't live here they will have to have a contract with someone to remove the snow.

Council Member Lucas related that with the sudden retirement of Neil Hamilton, he recommends that the Borough delay this matter to get the input of the new Code Enforcement Supervisor.

There were no objections from the members of the Governing Body.

ITEM #2. Proposed Taxi Cab License Ordinance.

Council Member Grasso related that he received a thorough response to his proposed taxi cab license/fee ordinance. He related that another meeting will be held to discuss his comments and suggested that representatives of three of the taxi cab companies attend.

Mayor Dempsey asked why the age limit for a driver is 21. He related that many of the drivers are college students.

Council Member Grasso related that they have to be 21 to drive a van.

Mayor Dempsey related that the proposed ordinance is way too lengthy.

Council Member Lee related that the Chief did a very thorough job with his review and that he has nothing additional to add.

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Council Member Lucas related that the Chief's report was very thorough and that he agrees with the next step that was recommended by Council Member Grasso.

Mayor Dempsey related that he would prefer holding off to see what happens with the proposed state legislation.

Council Member Grasso related that the proposed State legislation is very weak and has no meat to it.

Council Member Donovan related that the most pertinent thing that the Chief said is that the Borough should not pass an ordinance with a lot of fluff in it that will never be enforced.

Council Member Grasso related that what he wants is safety and to generate revenues. He related that he understands that the police want to get people out of town when the bars close. He related that the large vans do get the people out quickly.

Council Member Lucas agreed that the committee should meet with the Police Chief again.

Council Member Grasso related that three of the taxi cab owners should attend the meeting also. He asked if the Borough should select a few cab companies to attend the meeting.

Council Member Lucas related that he does not support inviting the cab company owners to the meeting at this time.

Mayor Dempsey agreed.

There were no objections from the members of the Governing Body.

ITEM #3. Division of Salaries Donated to the Borough.

Council Member Connolly related that the 2010 general budget had \$9,928.00 in it for Mayor and Council's salaries. She related that she along with Council Member Grasso and Council Member Lucas agreed to give up their salaries totaling \$9,000.00 to be applied to the general budget because that is where the property tax comes from. She related that only \$3,000.00 was removed from the general budget. She related that they are only willing to give up the \$3,000.00 from the general budget and that the amount will be divided between them. She related that they were very specific that the total amount was to come from the general budget. She related that if it cannot be done, then they will give up the portion that is already in the budget.

Mr. Trengrove clarified that at the March 13th, 2010 meeting he mentioned that the donated salaries would be spread between the three salaries. He related that it is clear in the minutes that the discussion took place.

Council Member Connolly related that was a budget meeting and not a Council meeting.

There was a great deal of discussion regarding this matter.

Council Member Grasso related that Mr. Trengrove pointed out that the salaries of the Governing Body are spread out over three salaries and cautioned that the Public Advocates might question why a portion of the salaries are being charged to all three budgets. He stated, "Let's have the Public Advocate come here." He related that he wants his money given to the people.....period.

There was continued discussion regarding this matter and about an article in the Coast Star on this topic that was written after they received an anonymous call about this matter.

Council Member Grasso accused the Mayor of calling the Coast Star.

Mayor Dempsey related that he did not call them but that they called him.

Council Member Lee asked why the budget can be amended for this but not when he asked for a \$7,000.00 reduction in legal service fees.

Mr. Trengrove related that the budget will have to be amended to cover the reduction in the

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Beach and Water Utility budgets and if not, an additional line item will have to be created.

There was continued discussion regarding this matter.

Council Member Lee asked if the money will be given back if there is money in the budget at the end of the year.

Council Member Connolly related that herself along with Council Members Lucas and Grasso are each donating \$1,000.00 from their salaries to the general budget to reduce the property taxes.

Council Member Lee related that he hears what Council Member Connolly is saying now and that it is different that when he clearly heard Council Member Connolly say that the salary reductions would clearly be over the three budgets. He related that this change has a ring of what occurred with the library to it.

Council Member Connolly asked why would she give money to the beach budget when she voted against the increase for the badges.

Council Member Lee asked why then would you vote differently when you were the chair person of the Finance Committee for three years. He related that Council Member Connolly knew the budgets and that the salaries are split across the three budgets. Council Member Lee related that there was lengthy discussions that the salary reduction would be evenly spread across the three budgets. He related that he does not disagree that Council Member Connolly should get her money back. He related that he is just trying to understand what will happen to the budget. He related that he would rather see it come back when the budget still has money in the line item.

Council Member Connolly related that is not proper accounting procedure.

Council Member Grasso related that he will not go back on his word and than no one has made any effort to do anything to reduce taxes. He related that he wants the \$4,000.00 put in the general budget.

Mayor Dempsey asked for a motion to conclude this matter.

Council Member Connolly related that she does not see why there is a motion since it was discussed at the budget meeting and not at a council meeting. She related that the fact that a mistake was made in the general budget is just what it is.

Mr. Trengrove related that a mistake was not made and that it was discussed and understood that the adjustment would be spread out over the three budgets. He related that no mistake was made.

Council Member Connolly related that the allocation of the money was somehow misinterpreted.

Mayor Dempsey related that it was his understanding that it would be spread out over the three budgets.

Council Member Grasso related that all the minutes say is that this issue was discussed and that such a key issue should have been covered. He related that the audio tape should be listened to. He related that the CFO said that the Public Advocate may question why a portion of the salary is being charged to three budgets.

Mr. Trengrove related that the next statement in the minutes by the Mayor was that the money would be take out of the three budgets.

Council Member Grasso related that he or Council Member Connolly or Council Member Lucas did not agree to that.

Mr. Trengrove related that it was plainly stated that is how it would happen.

Council Member Grasso stated that you are twisting words.

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Council Member Connolly related that we said general budget and that is it.

Mr. Trengrove asked what does the Council want him to do. He asked if he should reinstate the funding into the two budgets and pay Council Member Grasso and Connolly.

Council Member Grasso said to just do it – it is as simple as that.

Mr. Trengrove related that he needs Council to tell him to do it. He reminded the Governing Body that they will have to transfer funds in November.

Council Member Grasso related that he wanted it on the record that he doesn't agree with that.

No vote was taken on this matter.

ITEM #4. Employee Insurance Payment Cafeteria Plan.

Mr. Trengrove related that the Borough has the option of adopting a Cafeteria Plan that will allow the employees to have their 1.5 percent insurance contribution be tax deductible. He related that it is a permissible option according to the Division of Pension Benefits. He related that he would like to work with the Borough Attorney to have this ready for approval by the Governing Body at their next meeting. He related that the Borough will get the same amount of money but that the money will be pre-taxed for the employees.

There were no objections from the members of the Governing Body.

ITEM #5. Manasquan/Brielle Violations Clerk Position.

The Governing Body was provided with the advertisement for this position that was prepared by the Court Administrator.

Mr. Trengrove related that the Judge asked if the salary range should be \$12.00 to \$15.00 per hour. He related that this position is not eligible for pension benefits.

There were no objections from the Governing Body.

ITEM #6. Manasquan Inline Hockey License Agreement & Funding Agreement.

Council Member Lee asked for permission to prepare a renewal of the License Agreement for the next meeting of the Governing Body. He related that they have one remaining payment of \$5,200.00 then they will have satisfied all of their financial commitments. He related that he would like to solidify that agreement also.

There were no objections from the members of the Governing Body.

Council Member Donovan made a motion to recess the work session to the regular meeting at 8:13 p.m., seconded by Council Member Bossone. Motion carried unanimously.

The work session meeting was reconvened at 9:02 p.m.

ITEM #7. Advertisement for the Borough Administrator & Borough CFO Positions.

Council Member Connolly related that she provided a second draft of the ad which incorporated many of the suggestions that were made about the first draft. She asked if the Governing Body is ready to advertise this. She asked if the Governing Body approves of the second draft.

Mayor Dempsey related that he believes that 10 years experience should be reduced to 5 years.

There was some discussion regarding this matter.

Council Member Donovan suggested putting that the applicant must have 5 years experience but that 10 years are preferred.

There were no objections from the members of the Governing Body.

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It was agreed that they applicants will have one month to submit their resumes/applications.

Mayor Dempsey related that he would like the Shared Services Committee to work with the Borough Administrator to look at shared CFO services with other municipalities.

There were no objections from the members of the Governing Body.

The Governing Body agreed to advertise for the CFO/Administrator as soon as possible.

Council Member Connolly related that she will email the list of publications/websites where it will be advertised and the costs.

ITEM #8. Use of Borough Property Requests:

- South Street Sidewalk for Construction Project

Council Member Bossone suggested changing this to a 8:30 a.m. start time to accommodate the school children.

The Municipal Clerk related that once approved the contractor will work with the Police Department on a safe plan and the contractor will be responsible for any public safety costs if incurred.

Council Member Bossone made a motion to approve the requests with the stipulation that the start time be set at 8:30 a.m., seconded by Council Member Donovan. Motion carried unanimously.

- James Place Block Party

Council Member Bossone made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Council Member Lucas. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM #9. Letter from the N.J. Environmental Federation Commission re: Exemption from. Soliciting Ordinance.

Mr. Trengrove related that they are exempt from the Borough Ordinance by State Law but that the Borough normally *requests* that they comply with the Borough ordinances.

Mr. Trengrove asked if the Governing Body would like him along with the committee to proceed with preparing a help wanted ad to solicit applications for the Code Enforcement Officer position that will be available when Neil Hamilton retires.

There was discussion about researching shared service options with other municipalities.

Mr. Trengrove related that he will explore possible shared service opportunities.

Council Member Donovan congratulated Clean Ocean Action for doing a great job at their most recent beach sweep. He announced that the MEC will host a Composting Program at the DCI Building on May 22nd. He congratulated Patrolman Gillespie on his retirement and wished him well.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There were no comments from the audience.

Council Member Donovan made a motion to adjourn the work session meeting at 9:15 p.m., seconded by council Member Lucas. Motion carried unanimously.

The **closed** session meeting minutes, clerks signature and approval date are attached.