

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
April 23, 2013

ATTENDANCE:

Councilman Spence
Councilman Surrency
Councilman Thompson
Councilman Zapolski
Pres. Lugardo-Hemple
Mayor Albert Kelly
Administrator Goodreau
Municipal Solicitor Bertram

CALLED TO ORDER: Pres. Lugardo-Hemple

STATEMENT OF MEETING NOTICE: Deputy Clerk read statement of meeting notice, "Adequate notice of this meeting pursuant to N.J.S.A.10:4-6 giving the time, date, location and agenda to the extent known has been given in the following manner:

1. By posting notice of said meeting on the bulletin board at City Hall Annex, 181 East Commerce Street, Bridgeton, New Jersey on April 19, 2013 at 4:30 p.m.
2. By mailing such notice to the South Jersey Times and the Press on April 19, 2013 at 4:30 pm.

Pres. Lugardo-Hemple opened the meeting to members of the Bridgeton Library Board of Trustees for a presentation on budgetary matters.

PRESENTATION:

Bridgeton Library Board of Trustees – Debbie Boykin Greenberg & George McLaughlin spoke to Council regarding funding of the library. Library may not last past the end of next year. Mr. McLaughlin asked city to at least restore payments of employee benefits. Mr. McLaughlin asked the city to impose the Library Tax to city residents. They have looked at ways to cut spending. Out of city residents are asked to pay a small fee to use the library.

Mr. Goodreau stated the library tax is currently 5 cents and would add 3 ½ cents per \$100.00. It would be a tax increase. He is looking for direction from Council.

Mr. Zapolski stated that city could put a referendum question on the ballot to let the voters decide.

Mr. Spence – months ago he was at a County Library meeting, can't understand why we have two libraries about a mile apart. Is there any more discussion about merging with the county? Ms. Boykin-Greenberg stated she does not think the county has made a final decision. He would like to see discussions with the county go further.

Mr. McLaughlin stated that “Friends of the Library” and “Save the Library” groups are helping to offset budget with fundraising efforts.

Mr. Surrency stated he will reach out with the county, as council’s liaison.

We need to explore opportunities.

Ask Mayor Kelly how does the city want to proceed?

Pres. Lugardo-Hemple suggested that the school system should get involved by having a fund-raising for the library.

Mr. Goodreau told those present about the damage done at the library last year – the insurance company will not cover asbestos floor tile removal and abatement, still talking to the insurance company about covering the cost of removal. He should have resolution by the end of the week on it. Project should be done by the summertime.

AGENDA REVIEW:

Item G-1 – Ordinance first reading – add-on. Ordinance establishes fees for splash pad.

Mr. Goodreau stated that it will cover the costs of operation, two people daily. They will be “summer help. Salary will be minimum wage.

Mr. Spence stated he thought splash pads were free.

Mr. Surrency asked about those who can’t afford to get in if there is a fee.

Mr. Zapolski asked about the associated costs to the city: lifetime of the equipment, electric costs, chemicals, health tests fees?

Splash pad capacity is 90 kids. It will be open 10:00 am until 7:00 pm. City will have the grand opening on May 24th.

Dept. of Recreation – setting time limit for large crowds. City needs sign with rules for splash pad.

Mayor Kelly came in at 5:25 pm.

Item H-2- Mr. Goodreau explained that Class Ones will be ready next week. They can have a vehicle. There are very strict guidelines on things that they can do.

Item J-7 – explained by Ms. Bertram property was an in-rem foreclosure.

Item J-8 – price is too low. Mr. Zapolski asked Solicitor to find out what his intended use for property. It should not be used to add a rental unit. Resolution was removed from the agenda.

Item J-10 – add on resolution increasing the bid threshold amount. Mr. Goodreau to send Mr. Zapolski LFN bulletin regarding bid quotes. Mayor stated that if bid threshold is raised by the state, Administration will bring information to Council. Resolution to be pulled from consent agenda and voted separately.

Item J-11 – add on resolution for Ethanol plant, was explained by Solicitor. Company wishes to swap two deadlines – one due in August until December, one due in December move up to August.

LIAISON REPORTS - none

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Goodreau told Council that the City had its tax sale and 56 of 59 tax certificates sold. The city received bids for raceway debris removal. Engineer is reviewing bids to make sure they can meet the requirements, and a resolution will be ready for the next meeting.

Park Plan – Mr. Spence told him to go ahead.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Upon motion by Mr. Spence and second by Mr. Surrency
RESOLUTION NO. 238-12, authorizing an executive close session to discuss Real Estate – City Hall, 490 E. Broad St., Laurel Street and Public Safety – fire hydrant flushing; was adopted by unanimous roll call vote. The original resolution may be found in the Resolution Book.

PUBLIC PORTION - None

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further items of discussion, it was moved by Mr. Surrency and second by Mr. Thompson that the Work Session be adjourned which motion was carried.

Pres. Lugardo-Hemple adjourned the Work Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

Mary L. Kimble
Deputy Clerk

Gladys Lugardo-Hemple
Council President

Date: _____