

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MAY 2, 2017
4:30PM

ATTENDANCE:

Councilman Edwards
Councilman Spence
Councilman Surrency
Councilman Zapolski
Council President Lugardo-Hemple
Administrator Dr. Stephanie Bush-Baskette
Municipal Solicitor Rebecca Bertram

CALLED TO ORDER: President Lugardo-Hemple called the meeting to order.

STATEMENT OF MEETING NOTICE: The Deputy Clerk read the 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 26, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.
2. By mailing such notice to the Daily Journal, South Jersey Times and the Press of Atlantic City on April 26, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.

PRESENTATION: Councilman Zapolski spoke of the 2017CY Budget. He noted his findings are meant to challenge the routine budget process, and encourage questions. He distributed handouts to council as he discussed and compared the city tax rate history, the number of employees, and Pilot agreements to other towns. Councilman Zapolski questioned increases in specific line items in the budget and ended by providing short and long term actions the city should consider. There was a debate regarding council questioning or discussing Councilman Zapolski's presentation. It was decided to be done later.

AGENDA REVIEW:

C. Invocation/Flag: Councilman Surrency

J-1 Resolution authorizing the purchase of electricity supply services for public use on an online auction website. Councilman Spence asked for clarification. The Administrator explained it is a reverse auction where the lowest bid is the winner and the city would save money on electricity.

J-2 Resolution authorizing the award of non-fair and open contract for procurement consultant services. Councilman Zapolski asked why this service was being continued and what happened to the previous QPA. The Administrator stated the QPA retired, this contract would extend to the end of the year and would then be included in the yearly request for proposals for professional services.

J-4 Resolution approving the renewal of a liquor license held by El Rodeo Corp. President Lugardo-Hemple asked if the police report was filed. It was noted the report was done previously, the license was being held for approval until the tax clearance certificate was received by the city clerk, and it has been.

APPLICATIONS:

L-2 Catering Permit – Moses Arellano (Las Palmas) May 20, 21, 22 Softball Tournament. President Lugardo-Hemple raised the question of the use of alcohol in the city park and if an application for park use and insurance certificate have been received. A discussion ensued regarding the contents of the application, security, the type of alcohol to be dispensed, and approval of the Recreation Department. Council all agreed the application should be corrected at the state level, and approval from the Recreation Department and proof of insurance is needed before final approval will be given by council. Councilman Spence noted application L-1 for the Cinco de Mayo Festival has the same information for dispensing alcohol and needs to be corrected; he also noted this is not the first time council has made allowances for the licensee.

REPORTS:

L-3 Add-On Tax Collector Statement of Uncollectable Taxes

COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS:

Councilman Edwards – none at this time.

Councilman Spence – none at this time.

Councilman Zapolski – none at this time.

President Lugardo-Hemple said the Housing Authority was given a good report from the state. The library has a new director, and an assistant librarian; she thanked Ms. DiQuinzio for doing the interviews. She will be meeting with Bridgeton Main Street and merchants soon. President Lugardo-Hemple spoke of the Littoral Society clean up, and the 1st Autism Walk in the city, noting next year they will do it again.

Councilman Surrency stated Saturday was a busy day in the City, Captain America was in town for the Autism Walk. He said he enjoyed being with the kids and was proud to be a part of the event. He praised Mr. Mike Abbott for being there and helping out also.

At this time Mr. Moses Arellano joined the meeting to answer questions regarding his catering permit application. Councilman Zapolski referred to information on the state application to be corrected; a minor correction would be the event is for baseball, the major correction would be the type of alcohol being served. The application refers to wine and distilled spirits being served, however Council will only allow beer to be served. Mr. Arellano stated he would contact the state and have the application amended. It was noted his application for the Cinco de Mayo Festival needs to be corrected also to serve beer only. President Lugardo-Hemple stated an application for the Baseball Tournament and certificate of insurance needs to be obtained and submitted to the Recreation Department.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR / MAYORAL REPORTS:

The Administrator reported on meeting with the city engineer regarding the cost of the futsal/tennis court upgrades. She explained the cost of the full project would be \$46,000 for engineering fees only, for repurposing only specific courts the engineering fees would be \$26,000. The Administrator stated the construction cost was estimated to be \$180,000 - \$200,000 and suggested the city do an RFP. Lastly she said the city engineer does not feel 18 Parker Street will survive the demolition of 16 Parker, therefore the city needs to make a decision on what to do.

Mayor Kelly suggested council pass a resolution at the next meeting recognizing Mr. Warren Robinson, and naming the park across the street from the high rise after him for his dedication to the city, and as a WWII veteran. Councilman Spence noted Mr. Robinson was instrumental in establishing the park. The Mayor then spoke of two recent documentaries honoring Cumberland County residents. One was about baseball player Mike Trout of Millville, and the other was about Bridgeton native and boxing champ Richard Kates who fought in South Africa and continues to live here and contribute to the community. He would like to also honor Mr. Kates by renaming Burt Street after him.

OTHER BUSINESS/CONCERNS:

Solicitor Bertram updated council on property at 886 Pearl Street that the city has a lien against. She spoke of an offer made to the city on 40 Preston Avenue.

At this time a young student named Karla requested to speak to council. She asked if she could have a Lemonade Stand in front of her home tomorrow afternoon to raise money for her mother's birthday. Council approved, and Police Chief Gaimari spoke to her noting the police department will definitely patronize the stand.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Upon a motion by Councilman Surrency and second by Councilman Edwards RESOLUTION NO. 68-17 the City Council has determined that it is necessary to go into an executive session to discuss certain matters relating to the items as permitted by N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b was adopted by a unanimous roll call vote. The original resolution may be found in the Resolution Book.

1. Litigation – Cooper v Police Department
2. Litigation – Smith v Police Department
3. Litigation – NJ Ethanol

The original resolution may be found in the Resolution Book.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

President Lugardo-Hemple adjourned the Work Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

Kathleen L. Keen, RMC
Deputy Municipal Clerk

Gladys Lugardo-Hemple
Council President

Date: _____