

**CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
JANUARY 17, 2017**

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 January 11, 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 January 11, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.

PRESENTATION: Cindy Williams was rescheduled for February 7, 2017.

Representatives for the River Grove Project Janine McDonald and Hans Lampart were present to address council questions and/or concerns. Councilman Spence voiced his concerns regarding adding more apartments to the project, funding, more development in the city, and taxes the city and county would not receive. Councilman Zapolski disbursed a written handout of his opinion of the project; he spoke of funding issues, other projects within the city that have not come to fruition due to funding, the proposed property purchase price he feels is too low, and lastly stating he is not in favor of moving forward. Councilman Surrency said he is in favor of moving forward with the project. Councilman Edwards said he feels it is a great idea, although he has questions regarding the price and tax credits. President Lugardo-Hemple questioned the low purchase price of the properties, why others being told the properties are not for sale, and who is paying the fees for the environmental studies. She discussed other properties the city has acquired that are not finished, and the cost the city will now incur.

Gerald Velazquez, Executive Director of the Cumberland County Improvement Authority addressed council regarding funding to cap the landfill and possible redevelopment rights to the landfill for solar installation. Councilman Zapolski asked what was different with this project compared to one presented previously that failed. After a brief discussion it was agreed Mr. Velazquez would return to the February 7th meeting to discuss the project further.

AGENDA REVIEW

C. Invocation/Flag: Councilman Spence

J-1 Resolution authorizing changes to the FMBA Local 252 bargaining agreement. Resolution was pulled from agenda for additional discussion in executive session.

J-4 Resolution regarding the River Grove Housing Project. Resolution pulled from agenda.

J-5 Resolution authorizing forfeiture of taxi license. Councilman Spence questioned auctioning the license. President Lugardo-Hemple explained five (5) licenses previously sold at auction, and one (1) would need to be auctioned again.

ADDITION

J-7 Resolution Authorizing the Adoption of Roberts Rules of Order. Councilman Zapolski questioned whom the Parliamentarian would be; a discussion ensued regarding the need for a parliamentarian. Councilman Surrency motioned to appoint Solicitor Bertram parliamentarian as needed, Councilman Edwards second the motion. Councilman Zapolski called for nominations for a parliamentarian, he then nominated himself, Councilman Spence second. Councilman Surrency motioned to close the nominations, Councilman Edwards second. Motion carried by a unanimous roll call vote. Solicitor Bertram then read an excerpt from 'Roberts Rules of Order' regarding the need and/or appointment of a parliamentarian. A voice vote was then taken regarding the two nominees for parliamentarian.

Councilman Edwards - Solicitor Bertram

Councilman Spence - Councilman Zapolski

Councilman Surrency - Solicitor Bertram

Councilman Zapolski – ABSTAIN

President Lugardo-Hemple – Solicitor Bertram

Motion carried to appoint Solicitor Bertram as Parliamentarian as needed.

Councilman Zapolski asked that Resolution J-7 be voted on separately in the council meeting.

REPORTS:

Councilman Zapolski questioned the Splash Park fees collected and the Miniature Golf startup cost, the Administrator said she would look into it for him. He then questioned the Development & Planning reports and asked for them to be amended.

There was a discussion regarding the disbursement of agendas to council. President Lugardo-Hemple stated the agenda with all additional information will continue to be emailed to councilmembers.

COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS:

President Lugardo-Hemple discussed council liaison appointments for 2017, a copy of the appointment list was distributed to council. President Lugardo-Hemple asked council to look at the list and contact her if they have any questions. Councilman Zapolski spoke of department reports that are required to come to council, and of an appointment to two commissions/authorities that he feels is a conflict. Councilman Spence discussed the city applying for CLG status four (4) years ago that never happened and grant money that the city could be receiving. The Administrator explained the need for a full board on the Historic commission in order for the city to move forward.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR / MAYORAL REPORTS:

Administrator Dr. Bush-Baskette explained the presentation of the solar report was to give council an idea of the concept and details to follow. She reminded council of the NJ Ethanol report she forwarded to them. Lastly Dr. Bush-Baskette announced the resignation of Courtenay Reece, Director of the library, and the resignation of the Municipal Court Prosecutor whom is moving on to become a municipal court judge. There will be further discussion regarding contracts/personnel in executive session. Mayor Kelly addressed concerns regarding property on Cohansey Street where there was formerly a playground.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Upon a motion by Councilman Spence and second by Councilman Edwards, RESOLUTION NO. 17-17 that Council enter into an executive discussion for: Contracts – Municipal Prosecutor and Personnel – PD and Library was adopted by a unanimous roll call vote. 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: _____