

**CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
FEBRUARY 7, 2017**

ATTENDANCE:

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

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 February 1, 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 February 1, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.

PRESENTATION:

President Lugardo-Hemple announced the Park Presentation has been cancelled until further notice.

AGENDA REVIEW

C. Invocation/Flag: Councilman Spence

J-1. Resolution authorizing request for proposals for the restoration and adaptive reuse of the former Angie’s Diner. Councilman Spence questioned content in the RFP referring to various uses, noting he would like to see it kept as a diner and feels the city should take it over. Councilman Zapolski noted renovations are a requirement in the RFP and without a Historic Commission in place he does not think it can be done. Councilman Edwards said he was in favor of seeing something at the location, as opposed to it being vacant. The Administrator explained the time line of the RFP and award which could take up to three (3) months to complete. Mayor Kelly stated he was working with the state to get the Historic Commission up and running by the time the RFP would be out. Councilman Zapolski moved to postpone resolution J-1, Councilman Spence second the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

VOTE	YAY	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Councilman Edwards		X		
Councilman Spence	X			
Councilman Surrency				X
Councilman Zapolski	X			
Council President Lugardo-Hemple	X			

J-2. Resolution authorizing Verizon Wireless use of poles erected in the public right-of-way in the City of Bridgeton. Councilman Spence voiced his concerns regarding the project, and requested a representative from Verizon Wireless attend a council meeting to answer questions. Councilman Zapolski questioned conditions that could be imposed, and the appearance of the city if equipment not used was not removed. Council President Lugardo-Hemple instructed the Deputy Clerk to contact Verizon Wireless to have someone attend the next City Council meeting to address questions and concerns of council.

REPORTS:

M-5 Councilman Zapolski recommended removing item #5 the Zoning Board reports, as they are not compliant with the statute.

M-7 Councilman Zapolski questioned the Cohansey View Project, not being included in the report. A discussion ensued regarding city projects and reports to council. It was then agreed item #5 would be removed from the agenda, and item #7 accepted though requiring additional information.

COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS:

Council President Lugardo-Hemple explained her recommendations for the council committee liaison assignments. A discussion ensued regarding committees and the procedures.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR / MAYORAL REPORTS:

The Administrator announced the city grant writer, Triad Associates recently met with department heads to discuss their needs. She then spoke of working with the Clerks office to establish a listing of all contracts within the city.

Mayor Kelly announced SJ Chamber of Commerce is having a presentation regarding the Rutgers Camden report on “Is SJ Getting Their Fair Share” information regarding the date and time are forthcoming.

OTHER BUSINESS/CONCERNS:

Solicitor Bertram announced the city received appeal notice for denial of a Canvassing Permit. It was agreed upon to schedule the appeal at 4:00 pm just prior to the next council meeting. The Solicitor then spoke of an offer to purchase a property from the city located at 15 Washington Street. There was a discussion regarding the offer price, the assessed value of the property, and the intended use of the property. Lastly, it was agreed the Administrator would check the City Historic Registry regarding the property. Councilman Zapolski spoke of trash accumulating at the north end of the high school property towards the park; he would like the police department to enforce loitering and littering in the area as signs are posted. Councilman Zapolski noted the Board of Education has given the city approval to patrol the area. Mayor Kelly announced on February 20th sixty plus children will be participating in a community clean up. The Mayor praised DPW Supervisor Dellaquila for his continuous support during these events, and noted it is always good to have adults present to help also. Lastly President Lugardo-Hemple stated when “Executive Session” is announced those in attendance begin leaving the meeting, she noted Council is still in work session and needs to announce the reasons for going into executive session and hear a motion to approve the resolution.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

PUBLIC PORTION:

Councilman Spence motioned to open to the public, Councilman Zapolski second the motion and carried unanimously.

Flavia Alaya, Board President of CHABA (Center for Historic American Building Arts) spoke of the Nail House restoration and a book “This Little Building is Huge” that will be for sale soon.

Norma De Noble, Friends of Bridgeton Library announced the annual February book sale is happening now, and there is jewelry for sale also.

Steven Paul, Bridgeton Main Street announced a new bakery on Pearl Street, the Paint the Town Grant and targeting Pearl Street businesses. He said the merchant’s association is re-forming, an internet database of downtown businesses is being established and there will be a business expo soon. Lastly Mr. Paul said the Main Street Board recently reorganized and re-established their committees.

Tom Martin, said he hoped the Park Presentation would be rescheduled, he spoke of parking on Washington Street with regard to the city owned property discussed earlier.

Maria Perez, thanked DPW Supervisor Dellaquila for the installation of new light bulbs at the tennis courts, and spoke of other improvements needed. She asked that properties on Walnut Street be looked into regarding trash and debris. DPW Supervisor Dellaquila stated he and Ms. Hemple have been looking into grant monies for the tennis courts.

Jorge Moreno, spoke of the city park, trash on Bank Street in front of a vacant home, and drugs being sold openly. He also questioned liquor store hours in the city.

Jeff Fogg, spoke of the city park and the beautiful asset it is to the city.

No one else desiring to be heard, it was moved by Councilman Spence and second by Councilman Zapolski, that the public portion be closed, which motion was carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further items of discussion, it was moved by Councilman Spence and second by Councilman Zapolski 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: _____