

**CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
FEBRUARY 21, 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 February 15, 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 15, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.

PRESENTATION: NONE

AGENDA REVIEW

C. Invocation/Flag: Councilman Spence

G-1 Ordinance 1st Reading. Calendar year 2017 Ordinance to exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation limits and to Establish a Cap Bank. Councilmen Spence and Zapolski had questions regarding the ordinance; Comptroller Lake explained the ordinance process done yearly. Councilman Zapolski requested more information, noting he would like to see it broke down by line item.

J-1. Resolution authorizing Verizon Wireless use of poles erected in the public right of way in the City of Bridgeton. Mr. Larry Morgan of Tilson Technology Management Inc. addressed council regarding the project for Verizon Wireless. He explained the number of locations, size of the equipment, and how it will help increase signal strength due to the increasing use of data. Council questioned Mr. Morgan; will the city receive any fees or revenue, who will erect the poles and discard of the old ones, will this benefit Verizon Wireless customers only or other wireless users, and what will happen to the equipment if and when it becomes obsolete? It was agreed by council to remove the resolution until more information is received.

J-2. Resolution reaffirming city funding match for grant funds received for the Nail House. Councilman Zapolski questioned the resolution with regard to the terms of the original match agreement. A discussion ensued regarding the actual dollar amount of the match, and where the money would come from. It was agreed to remove the resolution to rewrite it with the correct wording.

J-3 Resolution authorizing the RFP for telephone services and equipment. Council questioned the need for another phone service. The Administrator clarified issues with the previous support provider with the phone systems in the fire house, the police department, and the library.

J-4 Resolution appointing a Municipal Prosecutor. Councilman Zapolski asked why the salary language was not included in the resolution. The resolution will be amended to reflect the salary.

J-5 and J-6 Resolutions approving grant applications and contracts with NJDOT for reconstruction projects. Councilman Zapolski questioned the wording of the resolutions, after a brief discussion it was agreed to amend the wording of both J-5 and J-6 resolutions.

J-11 Resolution amending resolution 16-17 appointing various professionals. The resolution was removed from the agenda for amending.

J-12 Resolution authorizing refund of a plumbing and fire permit application fee. Councilman Zapolski questions the refund and the city code allowing it. It was agreed to remove the resolution from the agenda.

J-14 Resolution authorizing the demolition of Block 95 Lot 47. Council members had questions regarding the resolution. The Administrator explained the reasons for the demolition and what the responsibility to the city could be.

ADD-ON:

J-15 Resolution approving participation with the State of New Jersey in the Safe and Secure Communities Program for the 2017 year. The Administrator explained the grant application and how the monies would be used.

SCHEDULE OF BILLS: The comptroller addressed withdrawing a line item and adjusting the amount of the bill list to \$392,047.85.

REPORTS:

M-3 Councilman Zapolski recommended removing report #3 Zoning Board Yearly Report 2016; stating the years 2014 and 2015 are missing and the report needs correcting.

COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS:

Councilman Spence noted the Zoo was very busy over the weekend due to the extremely nice weather.

Councilman Zapolski discussed the Best Practices 2016 report with regard to the Non-Fair and Open process.

Councilman Edwards requested Council be informed when incidents occur within the city, allowing them to communicate better with the community when questions are asked of them.

Council President Lugardo-Hemple discussed communication between councilmembers, advising council she will be reaching out to them individually to inform them of projects she is looking into for the city.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR / MAYORAL REPORTS:

The Administrator spoke of street lighting in the city and maintenance of trees; who pays for the maintenance, the homeowner or the city. A discussion ensued regarding the matter, possible safety issues, and how to resolve the matter.

Mayor Kelly announced students from Stockton University will hold a presentation at the Sheppard House on March 2nd at 10am regarding the water condition study done last summer and future plans for other studies.

Councilman Spence asked if the recreation department has starting looking for lifeguards. The Administrator spoke of water issues needing to be addressed first.

Councilman Spence then spoke of Bond Ordinances being voted down recently; noting the condition of roads in the city, improvements being needed in the Municipal Annex and other areas of the city needing attention. He suggested Council be updated on what can be done before the next meeting. Lastly Councilman Spence mentioned BOLT – the Bridgeton Tenant Landlord Association, and ideas for changes to the city code.

OTHER BUSINESS/CONCERNS:

Solicitor Bertram informed council of an offer to buy city owned property at 15 Washington Street. A discussion ensued regarding the terms.

Councilman Zapolski spoke of New Jersey Ethanol; their taxes not being paid, and what the city can do about the situation. Councilmembers Spence and Lugardo-Hemple echoed his concerns.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

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: _____