

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
APRIL 18, 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 12, 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 12, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.

PRESENTATION: 2017 Budget Comments/Questions; Council President Lugardo-Hemple said Councilmembers had questions and requested information previous to the meeting. Councilman Zapolski stated he spent a lot of time working on the presentation and feels it is very important. A discussion ensued regarding having the presentation. Councilman Surrency suggested hearing the 2017 Budget Comments during the Council Liaison portion of the meeting. President Lugardo-Hemple agreed and announced council would hear the presentation at that time.

AGENDA REVIEW:

Councilman Zapolski left the meeting at this time.

C. Invocation/Flag: President Lugardo-Hemple

F. Minutes: Minutes of the April 4th meeting were removed from the agenda pending finalization.

H-1 Ordinance Amending City Code Chapter 149 – Fees adding Section 149-22A- Notary Service Fees. President Lugardo-Hemple questioned the wording of the ordinance. Solicitor Bertram explained the fees were permissible by statute.

J-1 Resolution authorizing the award of a non-fair and open contract for EMS Medical Director Services. Councilman Spence questioned hiring when the city is in dire need of money, the Administrator noted the city is required to have a medical director for EMS services. Councilman Spence asked to have the resolution voted on separately.

J-5 Resolution authorizing request for proposals for the restoration and adaptive reuse of the former Angie's Diner. Councilman Spence requested the resolution be voted on separately.

J-7 Resolution authorizing execution of Financial Agreement for the River Grove Project. Councilman Surrency asked the Solicitor to clarify changes made to the agreement.

Solicitor Bertram noted the agreement has been revised to read 15 years, as well as all time lines are now consistent with what council had previously approved. Councilman Spence asked for the resolution to be voted on separately.

COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS:

Councilman Edwards – none at this time.

Councilman Spence – none at this time.

Councilman Surrency stated although it was cold, there was a great turnout for opening day. Bridgeton relays and track teams from all of South Jersey were also in the park that day.

President Lugardo-Hemple said she attended the zoo with her grandchildren over the weekend and the zoo was very busy. She reminded everyone of the Autism Walk and clean-up on Saturday April 29th.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR / MAYORAL REPORTS:

The Administrator stated the DPW and Recreation Department heads met recently with the city engineer regarding the futsal and tennis courts. Banners will soon be placed in the park and zoo naming the animals. Lastly, she spoke of a meeting regarding property on Parker Street. President Lugardo-Hemple asked for an update on NJ Ethanol; Solicitor Bertram advised the taxes have been paid, and she is waiting on information regarding a construction lien.

Mayor Kelly shared with great sadness the passing of Mr. Warren Robinson, a citizen of Bridgeton and a WWII Veteran who will be sorely missed. The Mayor said he has been in contact with Stockton University and they will continue working on Sunset Lake and the park.

OTHER BUSINESS/CONCERNS:

Councilman Edwards said two weeks ago there was a question regarding him voting on a resolution, and he would like the resolution pulled. He presented a copy of his letter of resignation from the Board effective March 10th. Solicitor Bertram advised the resolution cannot be pulled, as it was already voted upon, however a motion can be made to add a new resolution to the agenda. Councilman Spence inquired what the resolution was for, Solicitor Bertram explained for the sale of property for the River Grove project. Councilman Surrency motion to have Resolution J-8 Regarding the River Grove Housing Project added to the agenda, President Lugardo-Hemple second the motion. The resolution will be voted on separately.

PUBLIC PORTION: It was moved by Councilman Surrency and seconded by Councilman Edwards the meeting be opened to the public for comment.

President Lugardo-Hemple opened the meeting to the public for anyone desiring to be heard.

Mr. Mike Abbott commented on the Ordinance regarding notary fees; he doesn't feel there should be a charge, if so the city should reimburse the employees for their notary cost. The Administrator responded reminding everyone at the last meeting she indicated those who are notaries will be reimbursed for their notary, and the minimal fee is much less than what would be paid elsewhere.

Mr. Tom Martin questioned Resolution J-8 being added to the agenda, noting he has filed suit against the city challenging the previously adopted resolution for River Grove. He spoke of

attending the Zoning Board meeting on April 13th and questioned the legality of a resolution approved at that meeting. Lastly he requested council take action to determine the previously adopted resolution for River Grove be deemed not acceptable.

Solicitor Bertram responded to council noting no action needs to be taken to rescind the prior resolution, council is merely reconsidering the resolution and voting on it again. A discussion then ensued as to whether the resolution should be voted on or held off.

Mr. Steven Paul of Bridgeton Main Street informed council he met with Ms. Cindy Williams to work on several projects. He stated SR Rileys Restaurant has a new owner and is undergoing renovations. The pamphlets for downtown business windows and storefronts have been distributed, and plans for the Cinco de Mayo celebration have started. Mr. Paul said the Cumberland County College recently had Google executives come to the county and they were very impressed with Bridgeton, Lastly he spoke of a town in upstate New York similar to Bridgeton with a large riverfront area and would like to share pictures after the meeting with council.

With no one else desiring to be heard, it was moved by Councilman Surrency and second by Councilman Edwards that the public portion be closed, which motion was carried.

President Lugardo-Hemple closed the public portion of the meeting.

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: May 2, 2017