

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
JULY 5, 2017
4:30PM

ATTENDANCE:

Councilman Edwards

Councilman Spence - Absent

Councilman Surrency

Councilman Zapolski

Council President Lugardo-Hemple

Mayor Kelly

Administrator Dr. Stephanie Bush-Baskette

Municipal Solicitor Kristin Eisenhardt

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 June 28, 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 June 28, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.

AGENDA REVIEW:

C. Invocation/Flag: Councilman Surrency

H-1 Ordinance - Salary Officers and Employees 2016, Councilman Zapolski questioned the ordinance referring to 2016. Administrator explained the ordinance is done yearly and was not done in 2016.

H-2 Ordinance - Authorizing Sale of Property. Councilman Zapolski spoke of the Bridgeton Development Corporation; the existence of, the bylaws, meeting minutes, etc. He feels the city needs to resolve the issue before passing the ordinance. The solicitor explained the title company would have to determine if the BDG is incorporated, and the property has a clear title. Councilman Zapolski recommended not moving forward with the vacation of the Church Lane ordinance until the issue is resolved. Councilman Surrency recommended moving forward with the ordinance. President Lugardo-Hemple asked if the city would be responsible for costs incurred, the Administrator noted the fees can be negotiated with CCIA. Councilman Zapolski clarified he is concerned with fees associated with the reinstatement of incorporation of the BDC.

H-3 Ordinance - Authorizing Vacation of Church Lane. Councilman Zapolski recommended holding off on the ordinance until the BDC issues are resolved. Councilman Surrency recommended continuing with the ordinance and voting on it in the council meeting.

J-1 Resolution - Insertion of Revenue from the County. President Lugardo-Hemple stated the county has been contributing the same amount of money to the zoo since the 1980's and would like to see an increase. Other council members and the Mayor agreed with her.

J-2 Resolution - Award Professional Services Contract to Environmental Resolutions. Councilman Zapolski questioned the city hiring a planner when the CCIA is handling the project. The Administrator explained CCIA will be reimbursing the city for the contract.

J-5 Resolution - Submission of Grant Application for Pet Park. Councilman Zapolski questioned the area being used for the park, the Administrator clarified the aspects of the grant.

J-13 Resolution - Authorizing the Sale of Certain Properties. Councilman Zapolski stated he feels the contract is in favor of the CCIA and does not adequately cover the city's interest. He would like the city to receive a non-refundable deposit. The Administrator spoke of prior meetings and discussions regarding the downtown project.

K. Schedule of Bills - Councilman Zapolski questioned a payment to CCIA. He then spoke of monies for billboards being paid out from a different account. He asked the CFO to make the determination and amend the bill list.

COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS:

Councilman Edwards - great fireworks, the best he's seen in a long time.

Councilman Surrency - discussed interviewing two applicants for the city clerk position and recommends now advertising the position. President Lugardo-Hemple said there was no need to advertise or open to the public, as resumes were received both internally and from outside and interviews have already been conducted. Councilman Zapolski recommended moving forward with the applications that have already been received.

Council President Lugardo-Hemple - the fireworks were the best ever in the city. The kids were very excited and enjoyed them.

Councilman Zapolski - Spoke of the city clerk position, he feels there is no need to advertise. A discussion then ensued regarding advertising the position and RICE notices.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR / MAYORAL REPORTS:

Administrator reported on the following: the Recreation Director informed her the Little League Lighting fee was refunded and they do not pay for electric. The open house at 40 Preston Ave was recently held for council members.

Mayor Kelly said the fireworks were great; people look forward to the City of Bridgeton's fireworks yearly, and he appreciates all of the sponsors who make it happen. He also commended the Police Department for their handling of traffic and would like to expand next years' festivities. Councilman Zapolski asked for more "No Parking" signs along areas of West Avenue. Mayor Kelly then spoke of the New Jersey State Police holding a "top gun" training in the city. He stated the troopers praised the city police department and the City of Bridgeton for being the best place to hold training. Mayor Kelly spoke of attending a Vacant and Abandoned Property workshop recently focusing on Brownfields Development, with regard to resources, grant funding, and low interest loans. Lastly Mayor Kelly said Senate President Sweeney called him today personally to inform him the state budget finally passed and the city of Bridgeton school system will receive an additional \$2.2 million dollars.

BUSINESS/CONCERNS: Councilman Zapolski questioned the city having canoe and boat rentals at the lake, asking how this is being done without an ordinance allowing for it, or a fee ordinance in place. Mayor Kelly said the rentals were implemented memorial day for the season at no cost. Councilman Zapolski then spoke of the city budget; asking why the city planner was listed under Administration and not Economic Development, it was noted the planner was put their due to the Administrator approving any payments made. Councilman Zapolski stated the ordinance cannot be changed without going through council, and questioned not following the municipal code. The Administrator apologized for the mistake.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

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
Municipal Clerk

Gladys Lugardo-Hemple
Council President

Date: July 18, 2017