

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
DECEMBER 4, 2012

ATTENDANCE:

Councilman Spence
Councilman Surrency
Councilman Thompson
Councilman Zapolski
Pres. Lugardo-Hemple
Mayor Albert Kelly
Administrator Goodreau
Municipal Solicitors Baker/Bertram

CALLED TO ORDER: Pres. Lugardo-Hemple

STATEMENT OF MEETING NOTICE: Deputy Clerk read 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 November 30, 2012 at 4:30 p.m.
2. By mailing such notice to the News of Cumberland County and the Press on November 30, 2012 at 4:30 pm.

AGENDA REVIEW:

Item G 2- Mr. Goodreau explained reason for ordinance that Chief Schoch was placed in a supervisory position in another department, and now that more than one year has passed, Administration would like to amend the code, so that the city is complying with code. The current wording in the code is that it is only for 90 days.

Questions arose from Council regarding wording in ordinance of Divisions, Offices, Bureaus and Departments. Mr. Zapolski recommended another paragraph in the ordinance adding a review by City Council regarding prior appointments made before enactment of the ordinance. Solicitor was asked to put together changes in the ordinance. Mr. Baker stated that changes made will allow Council to evaluate and approve of dual appointments. Ordinance does not have to be introduced tonight. Before next meeting the issue of compensation will be discussed and resolved. Mr. Goodreau pointed out that the issue of compensation for the prior appointment is already in his contract. Mr. Zapolski wanted the figures of the prior supervisor's salary to compare to the compensation in the current contract along with hours worked in this capacity, while still working full time in another department. Mr. Zapolski stated that the Construction Official is working for three different people: Kevin Rabago, the state and the current Code Enforcement Supervisor, which can complicate things when his supervisors do not work in the same office. President Lugardo-Hemple, Mr. Zapolski and Administrator will meet to discuss issues, and information will be presented at the next meeting. Ordinance was pulled from Council's agenda.

Item H-4. Mr. Spence asked if employee was being put in the salary range at the minimum salary. Mr. Goodreau responded yes. Mr. Spence asked questions regarding how salaries are determined for new employees. Mr. Goodreau explained how salaries are determined for employees, now it is determined by union contracts; which is different than past practice. Mr. Spence asked Administration to consider giving him more money after a time period because of his 19 years of experience doing the job.

Mr. Zapolski asked that agenda items J3 and J4 be pulled off the consent agenda, and be voted on separately.

Mr. Spence asked Solicitor Baker to explain the resolutions.

Mr. Goodreau stated city could put down ground cover instead.

Mr. Zapolski has problem with them that is why he wants them done separately.

Item J-7 Mr. Zapolski – asked how ground water assessment goes with this scope of work; to him it seems unrelated.

Solicitor Baker explained if tank not leaking they still have to do preliminary sampling. This work does comply with NJAC.

Item J-8 Admin Goodreau addressed the sick leave aspects last week but two other changes to Personnel Policy are drug and alcohol policy, they wish to clarify them also. They were recommended by labor counsel. If an employee shows up for work intoxicated that person is subject to immediate termination. Positive testing in second pop-up test, employee can be terminated at that point. These two items needed to be clarified in the policy.

Mr. Spence asked about an Employee Assistance Program, Mr. Goodreau stated that it was cancelled, but does not know the cost. He will look into it again and get the information to him.

If an employee comes to city and states they have a problem, the city has an obligation to get them help. It is a disability, as long as it is not performance problem. It is different when they do not ask for help but test positive or come to work under the influence.

Mr. Zapolski wished to have the definition of under the influence clarified. Solicitor Baker responded.

Other change in Personnel Policy is for employees who do not participate in health insurance benefits. Now only get 25% of reimbursement not 50%.

Council asked Administrator to change language regarding “under the influence”, which he will have to bring to the unions, and bring back to Council.

J-11 – Mr. Zapolski wanted to know what environmental issues were identified that is causing the change. Mr. Goodreau responded that there were substantial issues that will need to have remediation in the future.

J-12 – Mr. Zapolski can't find amount in the budget. Mr. Goodreau responded – monies are in Police OE line in budget. Mr. Zapolski why it was not brought up when budget was being worked on. Mr. Goodreau explained that cars are not capital items, vehicle leases are included in the Police other expenses account. Mr. Zapolski asked why information was excluded from the CCIA agreement copy that was provided to council for them to review. Mr. Zapolski stated that the figures in agreement and amount budgeted do not match. Mr. Goodreau explained that when leasing vehicles there are additional costs for lease expenditures, which includes interest charges.

Mr. Spence asked if they have to have the best cars? Mr. Goodreau stated that smaller cars/vehicles don't work. Capris/Impalas are more expensive than Tahoes. Gas mileage is almost the same. Tahoe maintenance has an excellent record. Looked at all aspects pertaining to various vehicles, this is what will work.

Mr. Spence asked if lease/purchasing is under State contract.

Mr. Goodreau stated that it is. It is a four year lease. Trying to rotate fleet every three years. There are 32 cars all together; 3 or 4 are specialized vehicles.

Solicitor Baker thanked the City for all the time he has served the city. Dec. 17th will be his last day as Solicitor; he has accepted a job as County Solicitor. He is very grateful for the opportunity to work with all the employees in the city. He extended his appreciation and thanks for everything that was done for him and the opportunity to work for the city for all these years. Thanks to everybody. If we need to ask him a question, he will be there.

OTHER BUSINESS/CONCERNS:

Councilman Spence – “Paint the Town”–the project is moving along. Mr. Spence asked Administrator about permit process. Bill doesn't know what the cost of the permits will be. Difficult to get checks to pay for the permitting process. It seems to be holding up the project. The weather has been good. Trying to get as much work done as possible before the end of the year. Mr. Goodreau asked if he could be told when paperwork comes in.

Councilman Zapolski CCUA new way of invoicing for coming year in the way they are charging city for processing sewage. Impact on users in city. Admin, Dept. Public

Works, GPM, hand him on committee looking at how they can minimize the impact to the residents, while helping to build up sufficient capital for the infrastructure. Coming back to Council very shortly. Hopefully less than a burden to the residents. Charges will be based on real usage.

PUBLIC PORTION: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Upon motion by Mr. Spence second by Mr. Surrency

RESOLUTION NO. 135-12 to enter into an executive close session to discuss the following:

Contract – Hopewell MOU, Tax Abatement – McDonald’s

Public Safety – Taxicab Licenses – Jaylene, Taxicab Owner responsibilities

was adopted by unanimous roll call vote. The original Resolution may be found in the Resolution Book.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Kelly updated Council on the bus system. Ridership is up 22%. Mayor Kelly rode the bus through the city.

Administrator Goodreau requested ambulance fee increase. He spoke with Fire Chief and billing company – fees are currently \$550.00 and would like to increase them to \$700.00 based on what Vineland and Upper Deerfield Township is currently charging.

Mr. Goodreau - sidewalk maintenance draft ordinance will be amended to add curbs. Discussion ensued regarding violations and enforcement. It will be introduced at the next meeting.

Mr. Zapolski stated that he saw NJ Ethanol property. It is back on the tax rolls, out of grace period.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further items of discussion, it was moved by Zapolski and second by Mr. Surrency that the Work Session be adjourned which motion was carried.

Pres. Lugardo-Hemple adjourned the Work Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

Mary L. Kimble
Deputy Clerk

Gladys Lugardo-Hemple
Council President