

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

A meeting of the Bridgeton City Council was held on Tuesday, January 17, 2012 at 6:30 p.m., City of Bridgeton Police and Municipal Court Complex, 330 Fayette Street, Bridgeton, New Jersey in Council Chambers.

The meeting was called to order by Council President Michael D. Zapolski, Sr.

The Statement of Meeting Notice was read by Deputy Clerk, Mary L. Kimble, "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 January 12, 2012, 4:30 p.m.
2. By mailing such notice to the News of Cumberland County and the Press on January 12, 2012, at 4:30 p.m.

The invocation delivered and flag salute was led by Mayor Kelly.

The following answered to roll call:

Mrs. Lugardo-Hemple
Mr. Spence
Mr. Surrency
Mr. Thompson
Pres. Zapolski

Pres. Zapolski asked those present to turn their electronic devices to silent, and informed those present that certain additions, changes and modifications have been made to the agenda including on the Bond Ordinance it identifies specific uses for the bond monies and identifies that a Park Master Plan will be developed. Under resolutions, J6, has been removed from the agenda.

Pres. Zapolski turned the meeting over to Mayor Kelly and Police Chief Mark Ott for promotion of Earl Bergman Jr. to Sergeant, and Michael Speranza to Lieutenant. Chief Ott administered the oath of office, and then their badges were pinned on by their wives.

Pres. Zapolski announced that this is the time for the Public Hearing on the Green Acres application for the Splash Park.

President Zapolski requested that comments during the public hearing be limited to two minutes and any questions will be addressed after the closure of public comments.

Business Administrator, Dale Goodreau gave presentation on the proposed Splash Park and explained to those present the Green Acres application process. The reasons behind the original location that was chosen, and the opportunity to improve that area. Because of Wetlands issues, the new site for the Splash Park was moved to an area north of the Cohanzick Zoo. At the conclusion of Mr. Goodreau's presentation, Pres. Zapolski opened the public hearing for comments. Questions will be answered afterwards.

Mike Abbott – Bridgeton, posed question to city regarding green acres and access to public spaces.

Warren Robinson, Bridgeton, posed questions to city regarding tax rates going up if we use Green Acres funds.

Joseph McMahon, Hopewell Township, against site being located at Veteran's Park. Why was that site chosen?

Gloria Cortez, Bridgeton, against site being located at Veteran's Park

Alan Ayars, Bridgeton Area, against site being located at Veteran's Park

Jim Owens, Bridgeton, approves of Splash Park and having a place for children to play.

Willie Tukes, Bridgeton Veteran, approves of Splash Park

Jim Woodside, speaking for Veterans Council, Splash Park is a great idea, fun for our children, and happy that location has been changed. New location near zoo is good idea.

David Elwell, Baseball Tournament Director, people come from all over for tournament and concession stands are needed to accommodate visitors

Curtis Edwards, Bridgeton, and a Veteran, Splash Park good for the City of Bridgeton, he knows numerous people who will go there once it is open.

Bruce Riley, Lawrence Township, Splash Park is an opportunity for City.

Al Solonick, Upper Deerfield Township, who is also a park volunteer. Positive area of city for children is the city park. Splash Park is a positive for the city's youth.

George McLaughlin, Bridgeton, Splash Park is an excellent idea. New location north of zoo is a great location.

Tom Martin, Bridgeton, for Splash Pad, important to keep maintenance in mind in future budgets so children can be able to enjoy it for years to come.

No one else desiring to be heard, it was moved by Mrs. Lugardo-Hemple and seconded by Mr. Spence to close the public hearing on the splash park.

President Zapolski requested that Mr. Goodreau respond to the questions that were presented by the public.

Mr. Goodreau answered Mr. Abbott's question stating that under Green Acres access can be controlled. Everything will be done legally under the Green Acres guidelines.

Mr. Goodreau answered Mr. Robinson's question regarding City taxes. The City of Bridgeton is applying for a grant; it will not affect City taxes. The bond ordinance that will be a part of this will have some effect on City taxes.

Mr. Goodreau answered Mr. McCann regarding the original location stating that the area already had parking and the wading pool there.

The public hearing on the City of Bridgeton Splash Park Green Acres Application was closed at 7:40 pm.

A public hearing was held on January 17, 2012 at the City of Bridgeton Police and Municipal Court Complex, 330 Fayette Street, Bridgeton, NJ 08302 at 7:40 pm concerning a joint venture between City of Bridgeton and Hopewell Township for the acquisition of lands to be used as Park lands for the grounds behind Hopewell Crest School.

Pres. Zapolski turned over the public hearing to Mayor Bruce Hankins, Mayor of Hopewell Township. The parcel of land would be owned by Hopewell, managed by Hopewell and all expenses paid by Hopewell is about 300 yards from the Bridgeton City Park, and they will complement each other. Mary Elmer Lake feeds Sunset Lake and this may be our opportunity to protect our stream corridor. The only reason the lands are available is because of the economy, Small municipalities should be thinking regional. This should benefit the City of Bridgeton and Hopewell, and everyone on the western side of the county. This project will expand the Bridgeton City Park. Mayor Hankins explained to those present that if the property is purchased with Green Acres monies, the land will be public land that can only be used for playing fields, parklands, concession stands, and cannot be developed or sold by the Township in the future.

Mr. Zampino stated that the cooperation between City of Bridgeton and Hopewell Township because cooperative ventures show a sharing of resources and opportunities. Last year there was a cooperative effort between the City of Bridgeton and the Board of Education for the stadium and track and field project

Mayor Hankins stated right now Hopewell residents use the Bridgeton Park. We are dependent on each other, we are a region.

Pres. Zapolski asked for a motion to open the Public Hearing for comments.

It was moved by Mr. Spence and seconded by Mrs. Lugardo-Hemple to open the meeting for public comments, which motion was carried by voice vote.

Pres. Zapolski opened the meeting to the public stating that the representatives of Hopewell will answer the questions regarding this application.

George McLaughlin, Bridgeton, excellent idea, idea of being regional is first step to many more projects.

Bill Horn, Bridgeton, questioned why Bridgeton is involved in application process. Mayor Hankins explained differences in award of grant, noting that Bridgeton taxes will not be increased because of the application.

Joseph McMahon, Hopewell, questioned if land will be developed. Mayor Hankins that Hopewell will buy the lands and manage them, Bridgeton will continue to manage the Bridgeton Park. The lands will be bought to preserve it for future.

Mr. McMahon asked if other applications will be applied for in the future for bike paths. Mayor Hankins responded that the bike paths will not be asphalt, but dirt paths like those in Bridgeton Park, which will link the parks in time.

Mr. McMahon asked if the project was contingent with the repair projects to Bridgeton Park raceway and Sunset Lake. Pres. Zapolski stated it was not.

Mike Abbott, Bridgeton, asked question regarding safety of public using park. Mayor Hankins responded that Hopewell Township is covered by New Jersey State Police. It is anticipated that walking trails are not going to be used after dark

Mr. Abbott asked about anticipated illegal dumping. Mayor Hankins stated that they will deal with that issue when it occurs.

Matt Blake, Greenwich, commended Hopewell for having the foresight to obtain the land in order to preserve it instead of it being developed. Purchasing this area will protect our quality of life in the future. As a fisherman we need to protect our lakes and streams. It is the type of space that our residents are asking for.

Mr. Abbott, Bridgeton, asked about the two applications for Green Acres. Mr. Goodreau explained that if Green Acres approves the Splash Park Application, then they will not consider the Bridgeton-Hopewell Application.

No one else desiring to be heard, it was moved by Mr. Spence and seconded by Mr. Surrency to close the public hearing on the Bridgeton Hopewell Green Acres application, which motion was passed by voice vote.

Pres. Zapolski closed the public portion on the Public Hearing.

Pres. Zapolski presented the minutes from the Meeting of December 20, 2011 and Work Session of December 20, 2011.

It was moved by Mr. Spence and second by Mrs. Lugardo-Hemple to dispense with the reading of said minutes as all members received copies and said minutes be approved as received which motion was carried.

Pres. Zapolski announced two Ordinances for first reading.

The Clerk read an ordinance entitled:

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF RECREATIONAL FACILITIES IN AND BY THE CITY OF BRIDGETON IN THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$1,500,00 THEREFORE AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,425,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE CITY TO FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF.

It was moved by Mr. Thompson and second by Mr. Spence that this ordinance is adopted on first reading and that second reading, public hearing and final consideration be held on February 21, 2012 which motion was carried by unanimous roll call vote.

The Clerk read an ordinance entitled:

BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS IN AND BY THE CITY OF BRIDGETON IN THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND, NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING THE \$4,500,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$4,500,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE CITY TO FINANCE THE COST THEREOF.

It was moved by Mr. Spence and second by Mrs. Lugardo-Hemple that this ordinance is adopted on first reading and that second reading, public hearing, and final consideration be held on February 21, 2012 which motion was carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Pres. Zapolski announced no Ordinance for second reading.

Pres. Zapolski announced this is the time for comments on the consent agenda or any other matter of concern the public desires to address Council.

Pres. Zapolski stated that items J 18 authorizing the application for Green Acres Grant and J 19 authorizing the advertisement for RFP for Splash Pad have been added to the agenda.

It was moved by Mrs. Lugardo-Hemple second by Mr. Spence that the meeting be opened to the public for any one desiring to be heard, which motion was carried.

Pres. Zapolski opened the meeting to the public for anyone desiring to be heard at this time.

Mike Abbott, Bridgeton, asked when public hearing on the Bond Ordinance will be held. Solicitor stated it will be February 21st. Then he asked when the vote will be taken. Questioned why specific money amounts were removed.

George McLaughlin, Bridgeton, wanted to know what the improvements in the park will be. Mr. Goodreau responded it is for clean up of fallen trees in the raceway, replacement of pipes that go under the roadway from the raceway, and rebuilding breached areas of the raceway, and a cut off so it won't happen again. The City has to pay these costs up front, and we will be reimbursed a percentage from FEMA.

Mr. McLaughlin asked about the old bridge. Councilman Spence responded.

Al Martin, Bridgeton, inquired about a list of abandoned properties in Bridgeton. Mr. Goodreau responded that it is a work in progress at this time.

No one else desiring to be heard, it was moved by Mrs. Lugardo-Hemple and second by Mr. Thompson to close the public portion of the meeting, which motion was carried.

Pres. Zapolski closed the public portion of the meeting.

Pres. Zapolski announced all matters listed under items J-1, through items J-19, J 18 and J 19 being added, and J 6 being removed from the agenda, are considered routine and will be enacted upon by one motion, if discussion is desired that item will be removed from the consent agenda and will be acted upon separately.

It was moved by Mr. Surrency seconded by Mr. Spence that the following Resolutions listed under the consent agenda be adopted, which motion was carried by roll call vote. The original resolutions may be found in the Resolution Book

RESOLUTION NO 158-11 authorizing petty cash changes

RESOLUTION NO 159-11 approving insertion of revenue from Homeland Security Emergency Management Grant

RESOLUTION NO 160-11 authorizing cancelling balances in General Capital Improvement Appropriations

RESOLUTION NO 161-11 amending FY 12 Capital Budget

RESOLUTION NO 162-11 authorizing application to Local Finance Board for repairs to Sunset Lake and Raceway

RESOLUTION NO 163-11 authorizing modification of contract with DA Nolt, Inc.

RESOLUTION NO 164-11 authorize application for Lead Based paint Hazard Control Grant

RESOLUTION NO 165-11 authorize advertisement for RFP for emergency repair services for water/sewer as needed basis

RESOLUTION NO 166-11 authorize interlocal service agreement with Hopewell Township for EMS Services

RESOLUTION NO 167-11 authorizing appointment of Class II Officers

RESOLUTION NO 168-11 authorizing tax office changes – add back

RESOLUTION NO 169-11 authorizing tax office changes – refund overpayment

RESOLUTION NO 170-11 authorizing tax office changes on trash, water and sewer accounts

RESOLUTION NO 171-11 authorize advertisement for bids for Sodium Hypochlorite Solution

RESOLUTION NO 172-11 authorizing sale of Block 152 Lot 20

RESOLUTION NO 173-11 granting Senior Citizen exemptions

RESOLUTION NO 174-11 authorizing application for Green Acres grant for Splash Pad

RESOLUTION NO 175-11 authorizing readvertisement for RFP for Splash Pad

Pres. Zapolski presented the Schedule of Bills in the amount of \$575,952.47 all members having received copies.

It was moved by Mrs. Lugardo-Hemple and second by Mr. Thompson that the Schedule of Bills be approved and warrants be drawn on their various accounts and

appropriations, which motion was carried by unanimous roll call vote. The original schedule may be found in the files under “S” Schedule of Bills.

Pres. Zapolski announced receipt of the following application:

Taxi License renewal for 2012 from Express Transit System, LLC, all fees being paid and application received.

It was moved by Mr. Thompson and second by Mrs. Lugardo-Hemple that said application be approved which motion was carried.

Pres. Zapolski announced receipt of the following reports.

December 2011 Reports
City Clerk’s Office
Tax Office
Police Department (end of year)
Vital Statistics Office (annual report)
Fire and EMS (October/November)

It was moved by Mr. Surrency and second by Mr. Spence that said reports be received and filed which motion was carried.

Pres. Zapolski called upon the Mayor for comments.

Mayor Kelly informed Council about the Civil War Statue restoration.

Pres. Zapolski called upon Council for remarks.

Councilman Thompson no comments.

Councilman Surrency no comments.

Councilwoman Lugardo-Hemple – City Council is interested in your concerns and we try to do the right thing.

Councilman Spence stated that he wished people would contact Council when they have questions or concerns instead of going to the media. Council is here to listen, and dialogue with everyone.

Pres. Zapolski reiterated what Mr. Spence said regarding council is here to listen to the people’s comments and concerns. Pres. Zapolski heard comments on the radio about items being discussed in closed session. He stated what council discusses in closed session satisfies the rules of the law. Our Solicitor makes sure that we follow the letter of the law. If there are any concerns Pres. Zapolski will address those matters with them. Appreciates the conversations with Mayor regarding the bond ordinance.

There being no further business to come before Council, it was moved by Mr. Spence and seconded by Mrs. Lugardo-Hemple to adjourn the meeting, which motion was carried.

Pres. Zapolski adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary L. Kimble
Deputy Clerk

APPROVED:

President Michael D. Zapolski, Sr.

Date: _____