

**CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
SEPTEMBER 20, 2016**

ATTENDANCE:

Councilwoman Lugardo-Hemple
Councilman Spence
Councilman Surrency
Councilman Zapolski
President Edwards
Administrator Dr. Stephanie Bush-Baskette
Municipal Solicitor Rebecca Bertram
Mayor Albert Kelly

CALLED TO ORDER: President Edwards

STATEMENT OF MEETING NOTICE: City 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 September 14, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.
2. By mailing such notice to the Daily Journal, South Jersey Times and the Press of Atlantic City on September 14, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.

PRESENTATION: None

AGENDA REVIEW

C. Invocation/Flag: Spence

F. Councilman Zapolski brought to Council the matter regarding the Work Session Minutes of August 16, 2016 the rectifying of the position Council takes on appointments and confirmations regarding interviews.

Upon conclusion of discussion motion was made by Councilwoman Lugardo-Hemple and second by Councilman Surrency that appointment interviews would be requested on case by case basis which motion was carried.

G-1 Councilman Zapolski presented Ordinance for first reading regarding amending Municipal Code Section 149-35 as fees were inadvertently left out for service line sizes below 4 inches, this was added to the tonight's Agenda for first reading.

J-5 and J-6 Resolutions regarding MOU Gateway Sidewalk and Mini Park Projects Councilman Spence stated that he requested the overall plan and he has not received it and is asking that it be pulled until we receive the Plan. Mr. Spence request was granted and the Resolutions Tabled until the next meeting. Administrator instructed to obtain the overall plan for Council.

J-9 Resolution approving Library Conceptual Plan Councilman Zapolski pointed out a summary of the plan has been attached to the Resolution.

M-1 Treasurer's Report Councilman Zapolski posed questions regarding the report concerning UEZ balances and delinquent loans which the Comptroller and Solicitor responded.

At the conclusion of discussion the Administrator stated that the Business Administrator's office would establish a protocol concerning the delinquent loans.

ADDED

Zoning Officers Report (July/August)

Police Department Report (July/August)

COMMITTEE LIASION REPORTS:

Councilwoman Lugardo-Hemple thanked Save The Library for their Conceptual Plan for improvements to the Library, Police Department for taking care of issues in the neighborhood and Fire Department Chief for the presentation at the last meeting.

Councilman Zapolski stated he met with the Mayor, Tax Collector, CFO and Administrator regarding the original proposal for Water Revitalization Funding Plan that he had proposed.

After discussion at the meeting another proposal was recommended to be considered, Clerk distributed the two ordinances to be considered as Version One and Version Two which Councilman Zapolski elaborated upon One being the original plan and two being a quarterly water use surcharge established and phased in plan at conclusion Council agreed to take the two versions into consideration and act upon them at the next meeting.

Mayor Kelly thanked those who attend the School Board Meeting and heard Senator Sweeney's presentation about school funding proposal which he elaborated upon and presented a Resolution supporting Senator Sweeney's School Funding Reform Plan: Equal Educational Opportunity and Fair Funding for New Jersey Schools proposed by him and Senator M. Teresa Ruiz. Council agreed to place the Resolution on the Agenda this evening.

OTHER BUSINESS:

City Solicitor presented an offer received in August for the purchase of Block 95, Lot 8 (125 Walnut Street) Council agreed that a Resolution will be prepared to accept the offer for the next meeting.

Water Utility Revitalization Funding Plan was already discussed under Liaison Reports.

Councilman Zapolski elaborated upon NJ Ethanol release of engineering inspection escrow account and after discussion among Council and by speaker phone with conflicting engineer it was agreed to amend the Resolution for release of the escrow with a minus of \$3,000 for any future inspections, and place the Resolution on for tonight.

Administrator inquired about the distribution of request for copies by a Council person it was agreed that all Council would be copied unless requested by the person requesting the copy states differently.

Clerk presented correspondence from Pastor Russell Alston of Salvation's Grace Substance Abuse Program non-profit organization requesting that a tax bill of \$35000 be waived which was incurred by previous owners.

Council agreed that they could not forgive the amount requested but possible payment plan of \$5,000 a year could be arranged with no based interest and keeping current taxes paid, Administrator was instructed to make the proposal to him and if agrees, the Solicitor and her would make up the terms and would be memorialized in a contract or agreement.

Mayor Kelly presented National Make A Difference Day, October 22, 2016 which he expounded upon in attempt to once again to break the record of the Guinness Book of World Records for largest Gospel Choir. The main goal is too bring the entire community together as an act of unity and solidarity. He would like to join forces with other community organizations and churches to make it an entire community fair for adults and children on Commerce Street and the streets surrounding City Hall and would take place on the steps of City Hall at 3 pm.

President Edwards inquired how Council knows when a new business has opened in the City. Mayor stated that they are looking into a mercantile licensing then we would know. Councilwoman Lugardo-Hemple also asked who would let them know? Administrator stated it would be looked into.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

PUBLIC PORTION: None

ADJOURNMENT:

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

President Edwards adjourned the Work Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

Darlene J. Richmond
Municipal Clerk

J. Curtis Edwards
Council President

Date: _____