

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
OCTOBER 21, 2014

ATTENDANCE:

Councilwoman Lugardo-Hemple
Councilman Spence
Councilman Thompson
Councilman Zapolski
Council Pres. Surrency
Mayor Kelly
Administrator Goodreau
Municipal Solicitor Bertram

CALLED TO ORDER: Pres. Surrency

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 October 17, 2014 at 4:30 p.m.
2. By mailing such notice to the South Jersey Times and the Press on October 17, 2014 at 4:30 pm."

PRESENTATION:

Todd Bowen, Battalion Fire Chief, presented the staffing overview and responsibilities of the City of Bridgeton Fire Department to City Council. He explained that he is completely against the reduction of staff and demonstrated how minimal the department already is through a highly detailed, informative power point presentation. He affirmed that his primary goal is to keep the residents safe by having enough staff to follow the correct protocols when an emergency arises.

Mayor Kelly noted that the detailed presentation given by Battalion Chief Bowen really helped to crystalize the operations and statutory requirements of the department. He expressed that Bridgeton's Fire and Police Departments are second to none in the State and we are lucky to have such a dedicated group working on our behalf.

Dale Goodreau, Business Administrator, updated City Council on changes he has made to the FY 2015 Municipal Budget. He noted that he was able to satisfy their request for a decrease of five cents, and added that the reduction is actually seven cents from when it was first presented to them at the last meeting.

Mr. Goodreau stated that he received confirmation that Fire Chief Schoch is retiring effective November 1, 2014. He noted that if we left several of the positions in the Fire Department open prior to filling or promoting individuals, we could save money to meet the financial constraints we are under by using the value of time.

Mayor Kelly and Councilman Zapolski thanked Mr. Goodreau for presenting such a fine-tuned, conscientious budget with the necessary changes they were seeking.

AGENDA REVIEW:

C Invocation/Pledge – Councilman Spence

E There will be a presentation by Youth-to-Youth for Red Ribbon Pinning of City Council J-4 Resolution authorizing DOT Trust Fund Application for Baltimore Ave. Mr. Goodreau pointed out that we've applied for this street to be paved over the last two years, but did not get the grant.

J-13 Resolution: No. 1 contract modification South State Inc., Raceway Dam Project; Councilman Zapolski asked if South Jersey Gas will be incurring any of the costs associated with this contract modification. Mr. Goodreau stated that he has touched base with South Jersey Gas and they will be sharing some of the expense for this project.

J-14 Resolution: No. 2 contract modification South State, Inc. Raceway Dam; Mr. Goodreau explained that this is for a different type of topsoil that DEP is requiring for the project other than what was initially called for at the start of the project.

ADDED Items

J-15 Resolution authorizing mediation between City of Bridgeton and Henry Grove Diversified Investments

J-16 Resolution Honoring Breast Cancer Survivors and Domestic Violence Month

COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS:

Councilwoman Lugardo-Hemple reported on Boo at the Zoo on Saturday, she stated that it was an amazing event with over 3,100 people in attendance from all over. She also reported that the Soroptimists of Cumberland County had a ribbon cutting on Saturday to recognize Domestic Violence Month with over 100 people in attendance in the rain.

President Surrency reported that he was approached by several folks along South Avenue and East Avenue regarding the poor condition of the sidewalks in those areas. They were inquiring as to whose responsibility it is for maintenance to sidewalks in the City. Mr. Goodreau said that this has been looked into already and it clearly states in the ordinance that the property owner is responsible for all property from the pavement line to their front door.

OTHER BUSINESS:

November Meetings-Administrator Goodreau noted that the meeting dates in November have changed to November 5th and November 17th. This is due to the Election and the League of Municipalities Conference dates conflicting with the regular meeting dates.

Sidewalks at the Park-Administrator Goodreau pointed out all of the people utilizing the new sidewalks at the park in addition to the new walking path by the raceway.

Festival of Lights-Administrator Goodreau mentioned that the Festival of Lights will take place on December 5th and 6th at the zoo. "Frozen" will be this year's theme. He said there will be reserved parking available this year for a fee if anyone is interested. This is just another way the City is looking to generate additional revenue for the zoo.

Safer Grant Analysis-Comptroller, Mary Jane Lake disbursed a Safer Grant Report to City Council which will be discussed at the next Council Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Upon a motion by Mr. Spence and second by Mr. Zapsolski that RESOLUTION NO. 95-14, for an executive session to discuss the following: Litigation: Port Authority, Contracts: Shared Service, and Personnel: Fire Department Staffing was adopted by unanimous roll call vote. The original resolution may be found in the Resolution Book.

PUBLIC PORTION: None

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further items of discussion, it was moved by Ms. Lugardo-Hemple and second by Mr. Spence that the Work Session be adjourned which motion was carried.

President Surrency adjourned the Work Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

Jeanne M. Hitchner, RMC
Deputy Clerk

Jack Surrency
Council President

Date: _____