

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
January 8, 2013

ATTENDANCE:

Councilman Spence
Councilman Surrency
Councilman Thompson
Councilman Zapolski
Pres. Lugardo-Hemple
Mayor Albert Kelly
Administrator Goodreau
Municipal Solicitor 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 January 4, 2013 at 4:30 p.m.
2. By mailing such notice to the News of Cumberland County and the Press on January 4, 2013 at 4:30 pm.

Pres. Lugardo-Hemple stated that council will hear Administrator Goodreau and from Mr. Lee Hepner, whose organization, Bridgeton Breakfast Rotary Club, wishes to sponsor a circus at Alden Field parking lot on June 11, 2013.

AGENDA REVIEW:

Pres. Lugardo-Hemple explained that item J-8 has been pulled at the request of the petitioner's attorney. Ms. Bertram explained that the building is not ready, and the resolution will be put back on the agenda at a later date.

Agenda item J-2 – Mr. Spence asked if it is for the public to use these funds. Administrator Goodreau explained that we need to get a professional to do a survey and certify reports to see if lead paint is present at the project. Mr. Spence asked if it is for businesses also or just homes. He was asking for the Main Street "Paint the Town" project downtown. Councilman Zapolski asked if it was for residential or business and residential. Admin. Goodreau explained that it is using CDBG funds, but he will check into it to see if it can be used for businesses.

Council Pres. Asked if this is for testing for rental properties before tenants move into a unit. Admin. Goodreau stated that it is not. It is for work being done covered by CDBG loan funds for the homeowner.

Mr. Zapolski asked if someone could come to the Council meeting and explain how CDBG funds/loans are given, what is the process, eligibility requirements, etc. to help Council understand how the program works.

Mr. Spence stated that with Mr. Goodreau's explanation that he did not think it will help with the Main Street program.

Mr. Spence asked questions regarding the Main Street paint project regarding costs going over \$5,000 limit set by the property owner and the grant program.

Mr. Goodreau answered Mr. Spence's concerns.

Agenda item J-5, Mr. Zapolski stated that in a letter from SPCA the city may be more liable for sheltering costs, which would be unfair to the residents of the city picking up the additional costs for irresponsible pet owners. He asked how the city can recover the additional costs. Admin. Goodreau stated that the State sets the fees for animals.

Mr. Zapolski asked that the Solicitor look at the law and see if the city has options available to charge fees for owners whose animals have been placed in the shelter.

Agenda item J-6. Mr. Zapolski asked the purpose of the generator, if it will be replacing an existing one. Admin. Goodreau stated it will be replacing our 1975 generator. The capacity of the new generator is a lot greater than the existing one, and will be capable of handling future expansions to the fire house. Chief Schoch also explained some of the specs of the new generator.

Agenda item J-7 – Mr. Zapolski asked if this item could be tabled, and would like a presentation from Mr. Stanzione and the Director of Development and Planning. He would like to know what services are provided by the CDC before we commit to this, since this is a substantial sum of money. Would like to know what current projects the city might have. He would like to know how the CDC sees the city fitting in with their development program.

Mr. Spence asked if each municipality pays the same amount. Mr. Goodreau stated that municipalities pay on a scale.

Mr. Goodreau stated that the reason to join CDC is the city is trying to create commercial ratables within the City of Bridgeton. Members in CDC want to see Bridgeton succeed because in turn it will help them. Administration feels it is important to partner with our neighbors in this.

Mayor Kelly stated that the city needs to market ourselves. CDC sees Bridgeton as the hub of the western part of the county. They will help the city market the city, because Bridgeton has resources that they do not have. A partnership with other communities is advantageous to business and to communities. CDC can provide shared services that are out there.

Mr. Spence stated that he is glad that the city is taking another look at joining the CDC, but is concerned regarding the fee. If Mr. Stanzione can come to the next meeting and let Council know what the CDC has been doing so far, since the last conversations with city leaders.

Mr. Zapolski would like to hear from the CDC all the good things they are doing, so that he can understand why the city wants to be part of the CDC. He has read the information on the website, and in the paper, but would like to hear from them, and what our Director of Development sees for development with the CDC.

Pres. Lugardo-Hemple polled council members and it was decided to pull J-7 until the meeting of January 15, 2013, at 5:00 pm, and ask Mr. Stanzione to come and speak to them.

COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS: none

OTHER BUSINESS/CONCERNS:

Mr. Goodreau informed council about FEMA for Sandy – city received exit briefing and city received

Approval was given for archeological study for Raceway project. Should be giving approval soon for debris removal. City can get bid specs ready to be finalized Where raceway blew out will be the staging area, trees leaning in raceway will be flush-cut and debris removed, chip pile will be there to be hauled away.

Mr. Zapolski asked if work could be done together.

Mr. Goodreau stated that archeological work has to be done first, then wait for DEP approval. Archeological work can begin now. If anything is found it could delay the project, maybe forever.

Baconian ad for yearbook. It was decided to pay the ad from Council's budget account.

Zoning Changes – monumental project – 9 different letters, over 700 letters times 2 that have to go out – regular and certified mail. City has already identified 200 foot lists for the affected properties. One of the holdups is getting the letters translated into the proper Spanish translation for the residents. City hired South Jersey Interpreters to give us a certified translation, so there are no issues in the translations.

Audit exit meeting was held on January 7, 2013, there were three findings. One repeat finding was Municipal Court backlog. City is working on it. City will schedule one additional court day a month to help reduce backlog. Collection agency city is using to collect back tickets is working, but process is still being refined by courts. We may be hiring another person in Municipal Court shortly. City has not heard one complaint regarding new Court Judge. New Prosecutor and Public Defender are working well. Second finding from audit was money was not turned in in a timely manner, but that has since been rectified. Third finding – city did not have Chap. 271 forms, Clerk's office now has them and sent out forms to professional contracts.

Pres. Lugardo-Hemple met with Councilman Spence and called Councilman Zapolski to talk to Administration regarding the ordinance that was pulled from the last agenda regarding amending chapter 3-7(F) of the General Code.

Discussion regarding agenda items being pulled from the agenda for further discussion and consideration took place. Items need to be moved and seconded, but if someone on Council needs more information or time to consider something, and other councilmembers agree, item should be pulled in consideration to the councilmember, and rescheduled at a future meeting. Last Council meeting was tense, and when something is pulled discussion should stop at that point. Council and Administration should be able to share their passions and disagreements on issues, while retaining respect for each other, and then be a unified body at the Council meeting. Everyone here has the best interests of the city and residents at heart.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Upon motion by Mr. Spence second by Mr. Surrency
RESOLUTION NO. 160-12 to enter into an executive close session to discuss the following:

Personnel – Council 18 Supervisors, CFO

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

PUBLIC PORTION:

It was moved by Mr. Thompson and seconded by Mr. Zapolski to open the meeting to the public, which motion was carried by voice vote.

Michael Abbott, Bridgeton, had a question regarding agenda item J-2; lead abatement. Cumberland County Health Department does the inspections. Why do we have to go out for RFP for lead paint inspections? Doesn't county still have to certify it?

Mr. Goodreau stated that there are federal regulations to use CDBG Funds from which this resolution comes out of. Person qualified to do lead inspections. Mr. Goodreau asked if person from county is certified. Mr. Abbott stated that to the best of his knowledge they are. Mr. Goodreau stated that if we can use the county, then the city does not have to award the RFP.

No one else desiring to be heard, it was moved by Mr. Spence and seconded by Mr. Zapolski to close the public portion of the work session, which motion was carried by voice vote.

Solicitor Bertram reminded Council that the public hearing on the renewal of Jaylene Taxicab, LLC would be held at 4:00 pm on January 15, 2013 in Council Chambers. The decision is to be based on evidence and facts heard, and decision announced in public meeting. A decision does not have to be made that night, but extension of license will be in effect until a decision is made, and explained the process of the public hearing.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further items of discussion, it was moved by Mr. Spence and second by Mr. Thompson 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

Date: _____