

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
AUGUST 15, 2017
4:30PM

ATTENDANCE:

Councilman Edwards
Councilman Spence
Councilman Surrency
Councilman Zapolski
Council President Lugardo-Hemple
Administrator Dr. Stephanie Bush-Baskette
Municipal Solicitor Rebecca Bertram

CALLED TO ORDER: President Lugardo-Hemple called the meeting to order.

STATEMENT OF MEETING NOTICE: The Municipal Clerk read the 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 August 9, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.
2. By mailing such notice to the Daily Journal, South Jersey Times and the Press of Atlantic City on August 9, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.

AGENDA REVIEW:

C. Invocation/Flag: Councilman Spence

G-1 Ordinance Amending City Code Chapter 247-14 Parks and Recreation Areas. Councilman Spence asked where the monies previously collected went. The Comptroller said the recreation trust.

J-4 Resolution authorizing the use of UEZ Funds for Bridgeton Main Street. Councilman Spence questioned the amount of funds, Main Street's function, and the relationship between Main Street and the City. He stated Main Street gets no respect from the city; he would like to know what the city's plan for the downtown is. Council President Lugardo-Hemple spoke of walking downtown last week visiting businesses, she said most businesses owners did not know about Main Street or had little dealings with them. A discussion ensued regarding the sale of buildings and the loss of retail's in the downtown area. Questions arose regarding code enforcement and zoning issues downtown being the city's responsibility, not Main Street. Councilman Edwards questioned if the amount of funds was enough to cover the Main Street salaries and expenses. Council President Lugardo-Hemple suggested forming a committee to discuss the issues further including Councilmen Spence and Edwards, the Administrator, and Main Street. It was agreed to remove the resolution from the agenda.

J-5 Resolution authorizing advertising for installation of a Fire Station Alerting System. Councilman Zapolski asked for more information. Chief Bowen explained the original system needed upgrading.

J-8 Resolution authorizing the award of contract to Emergency Equipment Sales LLC. for refurbishing of the 1.75 Heavy Duty Seagrave Aerial Device. Councilman Zapolski questioned wording in the resolution title. Chief Bowen clarified the corrected language is 1 75".

J-11 Resolution authorizing execution of a subordination of mortgage for Ronald Hudak. Solicitor Bertram explained the homeowner is requesting the subordination on order to receive a home equity loan for construction. Mr. Hudak then addressed council clarifying construction had already taken place and he plans on continuing to live in the house.

J-13 Resolution authorizing the city be a co-applicant with CHABA for NJ Historic Trust Capital Preservation Grant matching funds for restoration of the Nail House. Councilman Zapolski asked what the plan for the nail house was; specifically what repairs and/or restoration work will be done and where is the documentation for the cost of the work. He said asked for the plans and did not get them. Council President Lugardo-Hemple and Councilman Spence also questioned the plans for the project. Ms. Flavia Alaya representing CHABA addressed council regarding funding and the grant application, she stated all information has been given to the city. A discussion ensued regarding the construction documents being given to council before the next meeting. It was agreed to remove the resolution from the agenda.

J-16 Resolution to proceed with the hiring process for an Assistant Municipal Clerk. Councilman Zapolski and Council President Lugardo-Hemple clarified the wording in the original resolution referring to “Assistant” has been changed to “Deputy” for the record. The Solicitor said the code is wrong and should say Deputy according to the statute also.

SCHEDULE OF BILLS:

K- August 15, 2017. The Comptroller informed council the bill list has been changed to include an additional \$3000.00 payment for a scholarship award. The total amount is \$634,427.92.

REPORTS:

M-4 Tax Assessor-County Tax Board Appeals Summary 2017. Councilman Zapolski said the city has lost tax revenues due to appeals, and could potentially lose more in the future, he noted the city should be mindful of spending.

M-5 Recreation Facility Update Midseason May 27–July 22, 2017. Councilman Zapolski asked to have the number of attendees listed on the next report. He also questioned a rental contract on the report, and why council had no knowledge of it. Councilman Zapolski said he would like information on the rental contract.

COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS:

Councilman Edwards – None at this time

Councilman Spence – None at this time

Councilman Surrency – None at this time

Councilman Zapolski – ID Card Program moving along, meeting Thursday to determine the best economic way to proceed with the process, and price of the ID’s.

Council President Lugardo-Hemple – August 31st 6pm, Dr. Robyn Rodriguez author of “In Lady Liberties Shadow” will be at the Library for a book signing. Ms. Rosemary DiQuinzio noted Bridgeton is highlighted in the book and represented well; she encouraged everyone to attend. Council President Lugardo-Hemple said there are many events happening at the Library, the City Park, Splash Park, and Zoo have also been well attended this summer with many visitors.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR / MAYORAL REPORTS:

The Administrator reported on the Futsal/Tennis courts committee meeting concerning the \$210,000 bid received. Ms. Dulce Gomez spoke of the refurbishing project, soccer leagues

traveling outside of the city to play, and the possibility of the Cumberland Soccer Club entering into a lease with the city for use of the fields. It was suggested a complete refurbishing would be the safest way to complete the project. The Administrator then spoke of options for paying the bills in the event there is no quorum.

BUSINESS/CONCERNS:

G-1 Property Offer 586 N. Pearl St. The Solicitor informed council of an offer received for the property. It was agreed to have the Solicitor move forward with the offer to purchase.

G-2 Property offer Block 188 Lot 12 & 14 The Solicitor explained the updated offer received, all taxes are paid on the property, and the owner has been made aware of the zoning regulations.

G-3 CDBG Loan Forgiveness The Solicitor spoke of options the city has regarding the loan forgiveness, a discussion arose and it was decided to structure the repayment monthly.

G-5 Infiniti Energy purchase request update. Councilman Zapolski spoke of questions he has regarding a pilot program and would like to speak to the Tax Assessor for further information and clarification.

G-6 Boards and Commissions Review. The Administrator spoke of the Best Practices Worksheet, she reminded Councilmembers of the Boards and Commissions list they received to review and discuss. A discussion then ensued regarding the various boards and commissions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

RESOLUTION NO. 145-17 A Resolution Authorizing an Executive Session.

The City Council has determined that it is necessary to go into an executive session to discuss certain matters relating to the items as permitted by N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b.

1. Litigation – RCT v COB Et al
2. Litigation – Jacobs v COB and Police Department

Upon a motion by Councilman Spence and second by Councilman Surrency Resolution 145-17 was adopted by a unanimous roll call vote. The original resolution may be found in the Resolution Book.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

President Lugardo-Hemple adjourned the Work Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

Kathleen L. Keen, RMC
Municipal Clerk

Gladys Lugardo-Hemple
Council President

Date: _____