

**CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
OCTOBER 3, 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 September 28, 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 September 28, 2017 at 4:30 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS:

A representative from SJ Gas addressed Council to explain the purpose of an easement they are asking for. He noted the easement is for construction, maintenance, repairing, and other necessary work needed with regard to a pipeline. Councilmen Spence and Zapolski questioned the size of the pipe, location, SJ Gas access to the area, fencing, and security if needed. A discussion ensued

AGENDA REVIEW:

C. Invocation/Flag: Council President Lugardo-Hemple

G-1 Ordinance – authorizing the sale of certain property owned by the City of Bridgeton. The Solicitor explained the properties would be placed on the current property list, but not on the upcoming auction list.

J-2 Resolution – authorizing request for proposals for professional services for the calendar year 2018. Councilman Zapolski noted the resolution needs to be corrected to reflect “City”, he also recommended the position of a Council Solicitor be added to the list. The Solicitor said there is not a provision in the code that allows for a Council Solicitor. Councilman Zapolski stated there is no prohibition in the code either, and spoke of the city being a Faulkner form of government. Councilman Zapolski made a motion to add the position Council Solicitor to the resolution, Councilman Spence seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Edwards-N, Spence-Y, Surrency-N, Zapolski-Y, Lugardo-Hemple-Y. Councilman Surrency asked to have the resolution voted upon separately.

J-3 Resolution – expressing opposition to legislative proposals regarding the open public meetings act and open public records act. Councilman Zapolski motioned to table the resolution indefinitely to get more clarification, Councilman Spence concurred, Council President Lugardo-Hemple asked for more information also. Mayor Kelly explained the amount of work OPRA places upon Municipal Clerks and the financial burden to cities is creates. The resolution was removed from the agenda.

J-4 Resolution – for change funds due to the needs of the resident identification program. Councilman Zapolski questioned the terminology “change fund v petty cash fund” and the existing city ordinance. The Comptroller explained the City has permission from the state to utilize change funds and petty cash funds and described how they are used in the city. Councilman Spence questioned the wording in the resolution, and Councilman Surrency asked if the Auditor approves the funds. The Comptroller said the Auditor approves them yearly. Councilman Zapolski asked for the resolution to be voted on separately.

J-5 Resolution – appointing Tax Assessor for the City of Bridgeton. The Solicitor explained the resolution should be amended to read 2019 in place of 2018 throughout the body.

J-6 Resolution – authorizing shared service agreement between Wildwood Crest and the City of Bridgeton regarding Tax Assessor services. The Solicitor noted the agreement sent to council was amended to read 2019 also as opposed to 2019.

J-8 Resolution – authorizing contract with NAPA through the National Joint through the National Joint Powers Alliance NJPA contract #032515-CNH for construction and agricultural equipment in an amount not to exceed \$48,000.00. A question arose regarding the dollar amounts in the title and the body of the resolution varying. It was agreed upon the title will be amended to reflect \$48,880.00.

SCHEDULE OF BILLS: The schedule of bills will be amended to reflect an additional payment, the new total will be \$284,559.81.

COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS:

Councilman Zapolski – said he had a nice meeting with Mr. Bethea of Gateway regarding the projects Gateway has created and finalized. He spoke of a plan Gateway has to expand the Southeast neighborhood plan in the future. He said the meeting was very productive.

Councilman Surrency – None at this time

Councilman Surrency – said the Zoo/Park was very busy this past weekend noting it was the tiger’s first birthday celebration. He suggested tracking the demographics of how many pass through and where they come from.

Councilman Edwards – thanked Police Chief Gaimari, the Mayor and the Administrator for being proactive in bringing the Police Mobile Sub-Station to fruition.

Council President Lugardo-Hemple – echoed Councilman Spence regarding the Zoo, she said it was a great community day for the city.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR / MAYORAL REPORTS:

The Administrator stated the Recreation Department Head indicated over 1000 people attended the zoo for the tiger’s birthday party. She then introduced Mr. Bob Mulford, Engineer for the city to speak of truck traffic on Martin Luther King and Baltimore Avenues. Mr. Mulford recommended reaching out to the trucking companies in the area to see why they are traveling the roads, he also spoke of the truck traffic possibly utilizing other roads and that becoming

another issue. Mr. Mulford said a resolution could be specific to allow only city trucks utilize the roads. Councilmen Spence recommended reaching out to the trucking companies in good faith. Councilman Zapolski spoke of safety issues and foundation issues for the residents. There was also a discussion regarding the area being an industrial zone. The Administrator then said the money has been allocated to order the resident ID machine, and 16 Parker Street has been demolished.

Mayor Kelly – encouraged everyone to go see the Parker Avenue residence, and the fantastic work that was done. He said the issues on Martin Luther King and Baltimore Avenue need to be rectified. He called upon Mr. Mike Abbott as a truck driver to speak. Mr. Abbott noted trucks use Martin Luther King due to trying to turn from route 49 and said the state should remedy it. Mayor Kelly then spoke of a recent bicycle race in the park that was well attended, referring to Councilman Spence’s statement of the amount of people utilizing the City Park and Zoo. He mentioned the Police Mobile Sub Station noting the City of Bridgeton has the first one in the area and reminded everyone Friday October 6th is Opioid Awareness Day, city employees will be wearing purple, there will be a presentation on the steps of City Hall at 6pm followed by lighting up City Hall purple.

OTHER BUSINESS/CONCERNS:

G-1 President Lugardo-Hemple stated the Council meeting dates for November will be Monday November 6th and Tuesday November 21st. The first meeting date change is due to the General Election.

G-2 Councilman Zapolski questioned the status of the PERC paperwork for the Municipal Clerk; the Administrator stated she had not been directed yet to submit it. Councilman Zapolski then spoke of the Mayors veto letter of Ordinance 17-22 for Department Heads and Selected Supervisors regarding equity and precedence; noting the ordinance change was proposed for three reasons that were described on several occasions. He said the change to the salary range for the title of Municipal Clerk was for good reason, noting the outgoing Municipal Clerk recently addressed council at a meeting stating she endured salary inequities for a number of years. Councilman Zapolski said in looking at the history of Municipal Clerks in the state, the city has woefully underpaid their Municipal Clerk for some time. He spoke of the Clerk being a confidential employee; being privy, aware, and knowledgeable of strategies and discussions provide for the Clerk being a confidential employee. Lastly Councilman Zapolski stated in October of 2013 the City CFO was removed from the supervisors union at her request with no objection from the city, he said the current instance is being treated unfairly and could be interpreted as discriminatory. Councilman Spence asked why one employee was allowed to be removed from the union and others are not and the legality of the position of a Municipal Clerk being in a union. He said he would like answers as to why councilmembers voted “no” and are opposed to this ordinance. Councilman Surrency questioned discussing salaries and positions in an open public session with regards to a rice notice, stating he would like to have the discussion in executive session. Councilman Zapolski stated salaries have never been discussed in open session, only salary ranges. Councilman Edwards said he recently learned a lot about the situation and wants to talk about it more; he said after visiting the Clerk’s office recently, he got a different view of the situation, understands it more and would like to see it resolved.

G-3 The Solicitor spoke of NJ Ethanol; they have been approved for a loan from the Cumberland County Empowerment Zone to do the railroad upgrades, however they need permission from the

city to go on the property. They also need permission from the railroad, however there has been nothing in writing as of yet.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Upon a motion by Councilman Spence and second by Councilman Edwards **RESOLUTION NO. 186-17** 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 was adopted by a unanimous roll call vote. The original resolution may be found in the Resolution Book.

1. Litigation Attorney Client Privilege – Money v. City

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 Edwards 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: _____