

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MARCH 20, 2018
4:00pm

ATTENDANCE:

Councilwoman DeQuinzio
Councilman Feinstein
Councilwoman Lugardo-Hemple

Councilman Zapolski - Absent

Council President J. Curtis Edwards

Mayor Albert Kelly
Administrator Dr. Stephanie Bush-Baskette
Municipal Solicitor Rebecca Bertram
Municipal Clerk Kathleen Keen

CALLED TO ORDER: Council President Edwards called the meeting to order.

STATEMENT OF MEETING NOTICE: Read by the Municipal Clerk

Notice of this meeting of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton, as required by N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., the "Open Public Meetings Act", has been provided by a public advertisement to the South Jersey Times and the Daily Journal on February 7th, 2018 of a schedule adopted by resolution setting forth the time, date and place of all the meetings of the City Council of the City of Bridgeton.

PRESENTATIONS:

President Edwards announced representatives from CME have not arrived yet due to weather conditions. He also stated the Budget Presentation will commence in the work session if time allows.

AGENDA REVIEW:

F. Minutes March 6, 2018 - Councilwoman Lugardo-Hemple stated she wanted to clarify the work session minutes of March 6th regarding resolution J-9 mobile food vending. Stating she asked for a report regarding last year's food vendor due to council approving a contract for the services.

J-1 Resolution authorizing submission to the Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Fund for funding to conduct the necessary analysis related to suspected contamination at block 142, lot 11 and supporting redevelopment of block 142, lot 11. The Administrator explained the resolution and said it was the "tin can" site. Councilwoman DeQuinzio asked if this is city owned property, the Administrator said yes.

J-3 Resolution authorizing extension of time for development. Councilwoman DeQuinzio said she thinks this is a good project.

J-7 Resolution authorizing the renewal of an agreement for membership in the Cumberland Development Corporation. Mr. James Crilley Chairman of the CDC explained how the corporation was formed and some of the projects they have worked on recently.

Mr. Anthony Stanzione Executive Director of the CDC addressed council regarding the membership agreement, and what the CDC does yearly for the towns. Lastly Mr. Steven Paul explained a joint marketing program that is currently in the works. Councilwoman DeQuinzio said partnerships with other municipalities is a good idea, though asked why the CDC website is not up-to-date. She also questioned how the CDC helped the city in getting the college downtown. Mr. Paul said “Cumberland Grows” is the new logo and the website will be updated. Mr. Stanzione explained how the CDC supported the city with the college and how the fee schedule is determined. Council agreed to remove the resolution from the consent agenda and vote separately.

J-9 Resolution regarding the River Grove Housing Project. Councilman Feinstein asked to have the resolution removed from the consent agenda and voted on separately, as he was not familiar with the project.

ADD-ON:

RESOLUTION J-10 resolution appointing J. Curtis Edwards to the Bridgeton Planning Board as a Class III member. President Edwards called for nominations of a Councilmember to be appointed a Class III member of the Planning Board. Unanimously council nominated Mr. Edwards, and agreed to add the resolution to the consent agenda.

At this time Mr. Donald Meisel, Planner for CME arrived and addressed council regarding the “Tin Can” Redevelopment site. He explained CME’s proposed plan for permitted uses including; athletic fields, walking paths, an indoor multipurpose center, dog parks, etc. Mr. Meisel disbursed a copy of the plan for council to review.

APPLICATIONS:

Councilwoman Lugardo-Hemple spoke of the upcoming 2nd Annual Autism Walk on April 28th.

ADD ON APPLICATION L-1 applications for the 2nd Annual Autism Walk – Block off street and Sign.

COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS:

None at this time

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/MAYORAL REPORTS:

The Administrator spoke of code enforcement violations and the time frame for which they are sent out.

Mayor Kelly addressed council regarding the CDC agreement renewal, urging council to support the City of Bridgeton participating. He spoke of Urban Enterprise Zones, and adding communities such as the city that expired back into the UEZ. Mayor Kelly noted there are 455 zones in New Jersey with four (4) being in Cumberland County and two (2) in the city. Lastly he announced it has been 50 years since the passing of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and on April 4th at 7pm Union Baptist Temple will hold a celebration honoring his life.

Councilman Feinstein asked what the physical location of the 2 UEZ zones were in the city, Mayor Kelly gave council members a map showing the areas.

President Edwards asked why Millville and Vinland did not join the CDC. Mr. Stanzone explained in the early 1990's when the CDC was formed Route 55 was completed and the Vineland/ Millville corridor was doing better. The CDC was formed for to better compete with the other towns.

OTHER BUSINESS/CONCERNS:

1. Offer City owned property-523 South Ave. Solicitor Bertram explained how and why the offer came about; a discussed ensued and council agreed the offer was to low and would not accept.

At this time Council President Edwards stated the 2018 Budget Presentation will begin and council will hold the executive session at the end of the Council meeting.

The Administrator explained the Budget Proposal Presentation will consist of the Department Heads each giving their own presentation. Mayor Kelly began by saying this is a realistic budget that provides services that are required and take into account the financial challenges the city is facing. He explained the .067 tax rate increase equates to an increase of \$45.22 per year on the average house assessed at \$69,700. He spoke of cutting \$50,000 from operating cost, delaying the purchasing of vehicles, delaying hiring of some staff, and shared service agreements the city is currently in. Next, Department Heads individually took turns addressing council utilizing a power point presentation on the subject of their office structure and needs.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 5:29 pm, President Edwards announced the work session would have to adjourn in order to begin the City Council Meeting at the advertised scheduled time of 5:30pm. Once the council meeting is formally opened, the Budget Presentation will continue.

It was then moved by Councilwoman Lugardo-Hemple and second by Councilwoman DeQuinzio the Work Session be adjourned which motion was carried.

Council President Edwards adjourned the Work Session.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:

Kathleen L. Keen, RMC
Municipal Clerk

J. Curtis Edwards
Council President

Date Approved: April 3, 2018