

EASTAMPTON TOWNSHIP COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, October 14, 2014

7:30 pm regular session

Mayor Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Everyone participated in the flag salute.

Mayor Rodriguez certified that notice of this meeting was published in the Burlington County Times on January 12, 2014. Notice was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board and sent to the Courier Post for information. All requirements of the "Open Public Meetings Act" were satisfied.

Present were Mayor Ricardo Rodriguez, Deputy Mayor Anthony Zeno, Council Member Robert Apgar, Council Member Rovenna Overton, and Council Member Jay Springer. Also present were Interim Township Attorney Pat McAndrew, Municipal Clerk Kim-Marie White, and Acting Township Manager Chris Muraglia.

PRESENTATION: Ernie Rogers – Senior Citizens

Ernie Rogers spoke to the Township Council about honoring the Senior Citizens at an upcoming Council Meeting or an hour prior to a meeting and giving all of them Certificates of Appreciation.

Township Council thought it was an excellent idea and would love to present them with Certificates of Appreciation. They decided the date would be November 24 at 6pm at the Manor House.

Jill Sortino, Senior Citizen representative, gave the Council a brief overview of the Senior Citizens Group and shared some of her ideas.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MINUTES:

- August 18, 2014
- August 18, 2014 Closed Session
- September 8, 2014
- September 8, 2014 Closed Session

It was MOVED by OVERTON and seconded by APGAR to approve the minutes.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Apgar, Overton, Springer, Zeno, Rodriguez
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, the minutes were approved.

CONSENT AGENDA: *The items listed below are considered routine by the Township of Eastampton and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no formal discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, this item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.*

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RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution R2014-99	Authorizing Eastampton Township to Enter Into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with Burlington County
Resolution R2014-100	Public Auction of Surplus Equipment and Vehicles
Resolution R2014-101	Authorize Public Auction of Abandoned Vehicles
Resolution R2014-102	Appointing Ad Hoc Advisory Police Negotiation Committee
Resolution R2014-103	Appointment of Special Class II Officer to Eastampton Township Police Department (Ernie Rogers)
Resolution R2014-104	Authorize Compensation of Former Township Manager
Resolution R2014-105	Authorize Agreement for Use of Equipment for Hayride/Bonfire (October 17, 2014)

It was MOVED by ZENO and seconded by APGAR to approve Resolution R2014-99 through Resolution R2014-105.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Apgar, Overton, Springer, Zeno, Rodriguez
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, the Resolutions were approved.

ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS:

- Construction
- Court
- Engineer
- Police (August)
- Public Works
- Tax Assessor
- Tax Collector

It was MOVED by OVERTON and seconded by SPRINGER to approve the reports.

ROLL CALL: Ayes - Apgar, Overton, Springer, Zeno, Rodriguez
Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, the reports were approved.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Acting Township Manager Muraglia said the Police Department drove through the township and noted which streetlights were out; they have been reported to PSE&G through the electronic system.

Acting Township Manager Muraglia said he hand delivered the survey to Mr. and Mrs. Preston.

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Acting Township Manager Muraglia spoke with Public Works Director Parks and new basketball court netting has been ordered for Cliver Park.

Acting Township Manager Muraglia said the Vista Park sign on Powell Road and Knightsbridge Road appears to be okay, the sign itself may need some repairs in the near future due to cracking and falling apart. He said the grass in the area is in good form and has been maintained by Public Works.

Acting Township Manager Muraglia said the ballasts for Carriage Park sign at Woodlane Road and Knightsbridge Road were burned out and Public Works Director Parks replaced all units with updated LED lighting.

Acting Township Manager Muraglia spoke with Burlington County's Traffic Engineer, Marty Livingston, and sent him three (3) years of Motor Vehicle Accident data in an effort to lower the speed limit on Smithville Road in the area of the pedestrian crosswalk. He said the County did two (2) surveys and that two (2) more would be conducted. Once he has the results he will share them with Council.

Acting Township Manager Muraglia said that Public Works Director Parks has advised him that the brush/leaf pickup schedules are listed on the Township website.

Acting Township Manager Muraglia said he received some complaints about hunting in the area of Carriage Park. The Police spoke with the hunters and the deer stands were removed. They were asked not to return.

Acting Township Manager Muraglia said the Police Department is in its final phase of the background process for a new police officer and will be conducting interviews of the candidates over the next several weeks.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 2015 Draft Township Meeting Schedule

Township Clerk White discussed the 2015 draft meeting schedule with Council and asked them if they prefer closed session to remain on the first meeting of each month or have closed session when needed.

Council indicated that they would prefer to have closed session when needed and not on the first meeting of every month.

- 2015 Best Practices Checklist

Township Council discussed the 2015 Best Practices Checklist that was prepared by Chief Financial Officer Mingin and Acting Township Manager Muraglia.

- Mr. Shinn Letter

Acting Township Manager Muraglia discussed the letter he received. Mr. Shinn does not want to pay his portion of the school taxes because he does not have children attending the school.

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Township Council said the response that was sent back to Mr. Shinn was appropriate.

- Bernardi Redevelopment Plan

Mayor Rodriguez advised Council that the Economic Development Committee accepted Mr. Bernardi's concept plan with some minor revisions and recommended that Council enter into a Memorandum of Understanding. It could be listed for the October 27 if Council agreed.

All of Council agreed to have it listed for October 27.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Brush and Leaf Removal

Mayor Rodriguez said he would like to keep this item on the agenda because it is the fall season and wants to ensure the brush and leaves are being picked up on a timely basis.

STAFF AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Rodriguez asked Township Clerk White to send them an email when the Best Practices is filed with the State.

Mayor Rodriguez asked all of the Council Members to score the Township Manager Resumes and they would discuss the Township Manager's Search on November 10th in closed session.

Council Member Overton said Recreation sponsored the skating party at the Holiday Skating Center and they had approximately 200 people show up. There were two minor injuries and both are okay. She said the injuries were a first for them. Overall the skating event was well attended.

Council Member Overton thanked everyone who pitched in with the hayride/bonfire for this coming Friday, October 17th. She said they are going to have hayrides, glow sticks, two bonfires and a DJ.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Joseph Armando, 285 Shingowack Trail, Medford, said he came to the meeting to ask what was the next step with the Manager's position, but the Mayor already addressed his concern so he introduced himself as one of the applicants who submitted their resume for the Township Manager's position. He loves the building and wanted to attend a meeting. He mentioned that if the Chief Financial Officer did a monthly report advising the percentage of the budget that has been expended that would meet the Best Practices standards.

It was MOVED by OVERTON and seconded by ZENO to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

VOICE VOTE: Ayes - Apgar, Overton, Springer, Zeno, Rodriguez
 Nays - None

There being five (5) ayes and no nays, the motion was approved.

Kim-Marie White

Kim-Marie White
Municipal Clerk

Approved: October 27, 2014

Ricardo Rodriguez

Ricardo Rodriguez
Mayor