

REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

Held in Town Hall Council Chambers

100 Central Avenue, Hammonton, N.J.

Monday, March 13, 2006 at 7:00 P.M.

Minutes can be viewed at www.townofhammonton.org

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR DIDONATO at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Mayor DiDonato

Councilpersons: Bertino, Colasurdo, S. Lewis, Wuillermin

Absent: Falcone and Massarelli

PRESENT ALSO

Brian Howell, Town Solicitor

Bob Vettese, Town Engineer

Rob Scharle, CFO

Tara Parkkonen, Accountant

Rosemarie Jacobs, Treasurer

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC SAFETY NOTICE

This meeting has been properly posted on the bulletin board reserved for such notices on the first floor of the Town Hall and mailed to two newspapers pursuant to law. Please familiarize yourselves with the fire exit drawing to the rear of the Council Chambers. Also, there is to be no smoking in the Town Hall at any time.

PUBLIC HEARD FOR AGENDA ACTION ITEMS

Mayor DiDonato opened the meeting for public opinion on agenda action items to be discussed.

No one desired to be heard.

Motion by Councilperson Colasurdo, seconded by Councilperson S. Lewis, public heard be closed. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Councilperson Wuillermin, seconded by Councilperson Colasurdo, the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 27, 2006 be approved as recorded by the Clerk and reading of same dispensed with. Motion carried.

DISPENSE WITH REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS

Motion by Councilperson Wuillermin, seconded by Councilperson Colasurdo, dispense with the regular order of business. Motion carried.

1. Bond Ordinance #004-2006 Re-appropriation Ordinance Central Avenue

Ordinance #004-2006

ORDINANCE REAPPROPRIATING \$110,432.08 PROCEEDS OF OBLIGATIONS NOT NEEDED FOR THEIR ORIGINAL PURPOSES IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR THE CENTRAL AVENUE SEWER IMPROVEMENTS IN AND BY THE TOWN OF HAMMONTON, IN THE COUNTY OF ATLANTIC, NEW JERSEY.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF HAMMONTON, IN THE COUNTY OF ATLANTIC, NEW JERSEY (not less than two-thirds of all members thereof affirmatively concurring) AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:2-39, it is hereby determined that \$110,432.08 of the proceeds of obligations originally made available pursuant to the following bond ordinances of the Town of Hammonton, in the County of Atlantic, New Jersey are no longer necessary for the various purposes for which the obligations previously were authorized:

<u>Ordinance Number</u>	<u>Improvement Description and Date of Adoption</u>	<u>Amount to be Reappropriated</u>
19-00	3(a) Portable generator for lift stations, finally adopted June 26, 2000	\$14,241.33
19-00	3(c) Replacement of sewer main on Tilton Street, finally adopted June 26, 2000	2,653.89
20-01	3(b) Sewer Improvements to Fairview Road, finally adopted April 23, 2001	35,822.48
20-01	3(c) Replacement of Tilton Street Line, finally adopted April 23, 2001	<u>57,714.38</u>
Total to be Reappropriated		

Section 2. The \$110,432.08 proceeds described in Section 1 and made available pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:2-39 are hereby reappropriated to

provide for the Central Avenue Sewer Improvements all as shown on and in accordance with the plans and specifications therefor on file in the office of the Clerk, which plans are hereby approved including all work and materials necessary and incidental thereto.

Section 3. The capital budget of the Town of Hammonton is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency herewith. The resolution in the form promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full detail of the amended capital budget and capital program as approved by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services is on file with the Clerk and is available there for public inspection.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect 20 days after the first publication thereof after final adoption, as provided by the Local Bond Law.

Motion by Councilperson Wuillermin, seconded by Councilperson Colasurdo, the ordinance be taken up for and pass first reading.

ROLL CALL:

Bertino - Yes

Colasurdo - Yes

Falcone - Absent

Massarelli - Absent

S. Lewis - Yes

Wuillermin - Yes

Mayor DiDonato - Yes

Mayor DiDonato declared the motion carried.

Motion by Councilperson S. Lewis, seconded by Councilperson Wuillermin, the ordinance be given legal publication as required by law and notice of hearing. Motion carried.

2. 2006 BUDGET PREPARATION PROCESS

Public Heard

Mayor DiDonato opened the budget preparation process for public opinion.

No one desired to be heard.

Fiscal Oversight Committee - 2006 Budget Preparation Recommendations

Mayor DiDonato handed out 2006 budget recommendations made by the Fiscal Oversight Committee. Mayor DiDonato reviewed the recommendations with the public. (copy of recommendations attached hereto)

Mayor DiDonato introduced Mr. Rob Scharle, CFO, and opened discussion to Mr. Scharle as well as members of council.

Rob Scharle CFO Budget Presentation

Mr. Rob Scharle, CFO, advised Mayor and Council of the status of the 2006 budget. He further advised the impact that the school increase will have on the municipal budget. He stated that the school and the town are still awaiting state aid figures which will also affect both budgets. He advised Mayor and Council that he used last years figures in an effort to anticipate this years budget but those figures can be adjusted when this year's anticipated state aid is finally confirmed.

Mr. Scharle reviewed the 2006 Budget Worksheet for the Town of Hammonton with Mayor and Council.

Councilperson Colasurdo questioned how will the state aid figures affect the town budget?

Mr. Scharle responded, depending on the amount of state aid received by the town, this Council may be able to expand or reduce their current budget.

Mayor DiDonato further explained that the burden of collecting taxes lies solely on the municipality.

Councilperson Bertino questioned the reduction in the anticipated surplus from last year?

Mr. Scharle advised, referring to the budget worksheet, the realization of the construction code fees have gone down and it was thought that our town's growth has slowed down and we should not over anticipate income in this area.

Councilperson Bertino questioned if this council will allow and anticipate growth such as commercial development?

Councilperson Wuillermin advised that Councilperson Bertino will see projects coming before this Mayor and Council that will provide the much needed infrastructure for the Town of Hammonton.

Mr. Scharle also advised that the state does not provide budget guidance for municipalities as they do with schools.

Mayor DiDonato stated that this Mayor and Council are figuring the 2006 budget with almost no tax increase and questioned if Councilperson Bertino is suggesting the council is being too conservative?

Councilperson Bertino pointed out that some personnel is being shifted to the Highway Department and the Highway is also taking over certain projects in this budget. He questioned will additional funds be provided to Highway budget to cover the additional employee and services?

Councilperson Wuillermin stated that the necessary funds have been shifted to the Highway Department. He further stated that the Highway Department additional duties will be minimal. For example, the Highway Department will only be removing trees that are emergent conditions. Trees will not be removed as they have been in the past. He also addressed Councilperson Bertino's concerns with Highway S&W figures.

Mayor DiDonato also reminded Councilperson Bertino that two former Highway workers are no longer with the Town. Further, this Mayor and Council have removed the three additional Highway workers requested by the Road Superintendent as well as all full time six month temporary laborers sporadically hired throughout the year during previous years.

Councilperson Bertino stated he appreciates the fiscal oversight committee's work but wants to point out that when discussing the 2006 budget they should have also taken into consideration the services and workers in each department. He also suggested the fiscal oversight committee should have consulted with the department heads prior to making cuts to their budgets.

Mayor DiDonato stated the fiscal oversight committee did not only look over this year's budget requests, they also investigated past year's budgets and expenditures as well as individual departments needs and operations. Mayor DiDonato also reminded Councilperson Bertino that he had requested the department heads to make cuts to their individual budgets themselves, and if they did not do so, then the fiscal oversight committee made the cuts for them. He also commended those department heads who cut their budgets. He does not feel this Mayor and Council should raise the town budget as to increase taxes for the people of Hammonton in light of the proposed school tax increase.

Councilperson Wuillermin stated that we need to set a goal to ascertain exactly how many services and what types of services each department is providing for the amount of their budget and it's hard to do so just by looking at the individual line items in each account.

Mr. Scharle advised that the town's ratables could grow approximately \$31,000,000 million dollars with no impact to the taxpayer.

This gives the town 231,055.00 extra the town can budget at 0 increase.

Councilperson Wuillermin disagreed with Mr. Scharle's assessment of the allowable growth and stated there are other areas to look at when figuring a budget. His concern is to maintain a surplus to be sure to fund future budgets and his opinion is that the surplus should be replaced as it is used.

Authorize Solicitor Investigate - COAH Certification Funding

Motion by Councilperson Wuillermin, seconded by Councilperson S. Lewis, authorize Solicitor to investigate COAH to fund planning board budget, by unfreezing COAH funds in the trust account, in order to comply with COAH certification.

ON THE QUESTION:

Councilperson Bertino requested a copy of plan from Peter Karabashian.

Councilperson Wuillermin advised that everyone will receive the plan.

ROLL CALL:

Bertino - Yes

Colasurdo - Yes

Falcone - Absent

Massarelli - Absent

S. Lewis - Yes

Wuillermin - Yes

Mayor DiDonato - Yes

Mayor DiDonato declared the motion carried.

Funding Street Sweeper/Vac Truck

Mr. Vettese advised the town can receive a loan at a reduced interest rate for a new street sweeper/vac truck for the Highway Department. A meeting will be held with Town Accountant to discuss same.

Councilperson Bertino stated with new storm water regulations he would agree to the purchase of a street sweeper/vac truck and the current Highway personnel could operate this piece of equipment with current manpower. He further advised that the Town is currently contracting street sweeping service out. However, the contractor's street sweeper does have the option of sweeping and vacuuming inlets.

Councilperson Colasurdo questioned do we have to sweep all roads of the town or just the roadways with catch basins?

Mr. Vettese advised only roadways with catch basins must be swept.

Councilperson Colasurdo stated he feels the street sweeper is working on roadways that are remote as well as sweeping our town park roadways which is not necessary.

Mr. Schiernbeck, Road Superintendent, stated 90 percent of the town's roadways contain catch basins. The park is swept because the runoff water flows toward Park Avenue which contains catch basins. He also stated we have contract with the county that states we must maintain their roadways as well.

Councilperson Bertino stated the town ascertained two county property's located on 11th Street in exchange for town services on county roadways such as sweeping, snow plowing, salting. However, county provides salt.

Mayor DiDonato questioning Councilperson Bertino stated he could not believe that the town entered into this agreement to provide services to the county and in exchange the town obtained contaminated property that the town is now paying for in addition to the services provided to the county.

Councilperson Bertino stated he believes the county would be responsible for any required testing and cleanup of the properties.

Mayor DiDonato stated to date the county has not provided funding for contamination to these properties.

Solicitor was authorized to notify county requesting aid in the matter of 11th Street County property.

Mr. Schiernbeck, Road Superintendent, advised Mayor and Council as to reporting of recyclable materials by his department and the Town Engineer office ARH and how it affects the budget. He stated the funding received depends on the amount recycled.

Mayor DiDonato advised that there is an Ordinance numbered 15-2005 that the Clean Flow Project could be charged to.

Councilperson S. Lewis advised the clean flow program is a pilot program and will be set up at beach area in amount of \$36,000.00 to be paid in increments but the guarantee is that we will have swimming during the entire season and if that does not happen we will be refunded for the entire project.

Solicitor suggested \$10,000 be held in escrow and stated we can do a non-fair and open resolution.

Councilperson Bertino, going back to the Highway Budget, questioned the \$150,000 for road program projects that the Highway Department personnel would work on themselves and Mr. Schiernbeck had anticipated to be performed this year. Projects include work on drains that the snow plow hits.

Mayor DiDonato requested that the funding for road program be listed by line item specifically for each separate project in the ordinance in the future.

Mr. Scharle responded we can list by line item and we can also amend bond ordinance for wording so that you can re allocate monies for alternate projects.

Mr. James Massara, Water Superintendent, getting back to the clean flow system discussion questioned will the clean flow system take care of the geese problem?

Councilperson S. Lewis responded yes, clean flow does eliminate the fecal matter in the water.

Councilperson Colasurdo questioned how many pumps will we need?

Councilperson S. Lewis responded three.

Councilperson Colasurdo stated his concern is that we will be running into a lot of additional costs for this project that we cannot anticipate at this time.

Mr. Schiernbeck, Road Superintendent, questioned if the town received a grant last year for catch basin cleanup?

Councilpersons Bertino and S. Lewis concurred that yes the town did receive a grant for catch basin cleanup.

Mr. Scharle stated \$2500 was received and the town matched that.

Research Clean Flow for March 27 council meeting

After a discussion the Mayor and Council authorized investigation into additional costs of clean flow program and report back to council at March 27 for adoption of resolution for unspecified services with contingencies.

RESUME REGULAR ORDER OF BUSINESS

Motion by Councilperson Bertino, seconded by Councilperson Wuillermin, resume regular order of business. Motion carried.

EMERGENCY MATTERS

Authorize Agreement with Barnegat Purchase Toters \$10,000

Mr. Schiernbeck stated all but two streets in town have received toters. However, that does not include the additional toter requests. He has approximately 250 small toters left over and many senior citizens prefer the smaller toters.

The Clerk advised 200 - 96 gallon toters and 400 - 64 gallon toters will cost \$10,000.

Motion by Councilperson Bertino, seconded by Councilperson Colasurdo, authorize agreement with Barnegat for purchase of toters in amount of \$10,000.

ROLL CALL:

Bertino - Yes

Colasurdo - Yes

Falcone - Absent

Massarelli - Absent

S. Lewis - Yes

Wuillermin - Yes

Mayor DiDonato - Yes

Mayor DiDonato declared the motion carried.

Transfer Parks/Recreation Laborer & Equipment to Highway Department

Motion by Councilperson Colasurdo, seconded by Councilperson S. Lewis, authorize transfer of Andrew Cavallero, Laborer, and all parks/recreation equipment to Highway Department effective March 20, 2006.

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ROLL CALL:

Bertino - Yes

Colasurdo - Yes

Falcone - Absent

Massarelli - Absent

S. Lewis - Yes

Wuillermin - Abstain

Mayor DiDonato - Yes

Mayor DiDonato declared the motion carried.

Chief Ingemi - Prisoners

Chief Ingemi advised Mayor and Council that he received a call from Representative from NJ State Prisons and he is coordinating use of prisoners for park maintenance.

Downtown Planters

Councilperson Wuillermin thanked Mainstreet Garden for the gracious planters in the downtown area and also thanked Ron Fisher for his donation. He implored the downtown property owners adjacent to those planters to water same.

Dr. Hozik also thanked the young people who were involved in planting.

Engineer - Town Hall Update

Mr. Vettese updated Mayor and Council on the status of the new town hall and advised of Mr. Grubb's report and the town's application to the Pinelands.

Emergency Response Vehicle

Councilperson Colasurdo questioned if the Police Chief needed the emergency response vehicle stored in the new town hall with the police as the vehicle is very large and may not fit.

Chief Ingemi responded yes it needs to be placed close to the Police Department as the police need to access same quickly in an emergency.

Mayor DiDonato questioned Chief Ingemi what a first response vehicle is referring to.

Chief Ingemi advised that first response personnel would load into the vehicle in an emergency such as a high risk warrant.

Mayor DiDonato questioned if Chief Ingemi has had to use this vehicle to date?

Chief responded yes.

Councilperson Wuillermin stated the response of the sally port is for the secure transport of prisoners into the cell. Councilperson Wuillermin questioned which Chief Ingemi would prioritize, the sally port or the first response emergency vehicle?

Chief Ingemi stated he would have to prioritize the sally port but stated he would not want to jeopardize someone's life due to not having proper equipment.

Councilperson Bertino requested to be in attendance at the next building committee meeting if at all possible?

Mayor and Council agreed.

Engineer Report on Priority Projects

Mr. Vettese once again reported on the status of the priority projects as follows:

1. Town Hall
2. Downtown Sidewalks
3. Egg Harbor Road
4. Central Avenue
5. Lake Community Center

Authorize Agreement to Provide Water Service to Dr. Crescenzo's Building

After a discussion it was on motion by Councilperson Wuillermin, seconded by Councilperson Colasurdo, authorize Solicitor to prepare an agreement with condition between Dr. Crescenzo, PJ Pullia and the Town of Hammonton prior to installation of water service to Dr. Crescenzo's building.

ROLL CALL:

Bertino - Yes

Colasurdo - Yes

Falcone - Absent

Massarelli - Absent

S. Lewis - Yes

Wuillermin - Yes

Mayor DiDonato - Yes

Mayor DiDonato declared the motion carried.

SOLICITOR REPORT

1. Industrial Park/11th Street Park
2. Business Registration
3. Pinelands letter withdraw 11th Street town hall site
4. Agreement - Use of Prisoners

MAYOR DIDONATO REPORT

Budget

Tonight, while we are faced with a 25% municipal tax increase, we could sit here and blame our budget problems on the previous administration, State Funding, Increased Insurance & Pension Costs etc... However, you elected us to fix the problems, be fiscally responsible and work hard to balance the budget. Therefore we must make hard choices or our Senior Citizens living on fixed incomes and family's struggling to make ends meet will no longer be able to live the American dream and afford their home.

If anyone from the public has any cost savings ideas, we would love to hear your ideas. In light of our open government, you can be part of the process in deciding how your tax dollars are being spent and how your taxes will be affected.

School Notes

A letter from the school requesting an early payment prompted a meeting with representatives of the school board last week. The floundering financial situation of the school was discussed. At that meeting I offered the help of our fiscal oversight committee to the school. I believe every child deserves a 1st class, fiscally responsible education.

PUBLIC HEARD

Mark Santora - Old Forks Road

Mr. Santora stated he met with Dr. Hozik, Mr. Vettese and Councilperson Colasurdo concerning sewer on Old Forks Road. He realizes this council is being very financially prudent. However, there is a pending matter where a retention pond at Pulte Development was placed too close to the septic system of the PR Civic Assoc. He saw problems coming with this project such as contamination of his mother's property which happened. He feels the next problem will be failure of septic systems in the area. He stated the entire area is known for poor percolation and he is concerned with the drainage basin that is supposed to drain within 72 hours by law and does not. Therefore, he feels it is inevitable that the sewer line is going to have to be run. He stated we have to rectify this situation or face unsanitary conditions in the future.

Mr. Vettese responded that a grinder pump and/or force main will be necessary and should not be that costly. He will provide estimates at next meeting.

Mr. Colasurdo stated he will follow up on their meeting this week.

Councilperson Bertino stated he has no problem with asking the construction code official to stop issuing permits until all work is complete. He also feels authorization should be made to bid this project for sewer extension.

Councilperson Colasurdo stated he agrees with Councilperson Bertino but wishes to request Triad or Pulte to fund same.

Mr. Santora asked Mayor and Council to look at Pulte performance bonds being held by the town to be sure that the amounts are sufficient.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:30 p.m.

Motion by Councilperson Bertino, seconded by Councilperson Wuillermin, the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.

Prepared by April Boyer Maimone, Deputy Clerk

Approved by Susanne Oddo, Town Clerk/Administrator