

Borough of Palmyra
Regular Council Meeting, 7:00 PM
Monday, December 17th, 2018

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Palmyra is hereby called to order by Mayor Michelle Arnold at 7:01 pm.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mr. Brandon Allmond, Mr. Timothy Howard, Mrs. Gina Tait, Ms. Mindie Weiner Mr. Lewis Yetter, President Bernadette Russell, Mayor Michelle Arnold

The pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of silence.

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT

Mayor Arnold read the open public meetings statement into the record: Public Notice of this meeting pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act has been given by the Municipal Clerk in the following manner:

- Posting written notice on the official bulletin board at the Palmyra Borough Hall on January 10, 2018.
- Mailing written notice to the Burlington County Times, and the Courier Post Newspaper on January 10, 2018.
- Notice to All Council Members.

INVOCATION

Prayer was given by Ella Graham, Police Chaplin of the Palmyra Police Department

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Russell noted a correction in her committee report. President Russell noted the correct name in her report regarding the Shade Tree Committee is Tim Kaluhiokalani, not Kim. Ms. Jackson noted the change and indicated she would change the minutes to reflect the correction.

Mayor Arnold requested a motion for approval of the December 3rd, 2018 Council Caucus Meeting Minutes.

Mrs. Tait made a motion to approve the Regular Council Meeting minutes from the December 3rd, 2018 with the correction noted by President Russell. President Russell second the motion.

At the call of the roll the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Allmond, Mr. Howard, Mrs. Tait, Ms. Weiner, Mr. Yetter, President Russell

NAYES: none

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Arnold acknowledged letters received from Melanie Willoughby, Executive Director NJ Business Action Center State of New Jersey, Michelle Hack, Borough of Riverton Planning Board Secretary and Pro Capital.

Mayor Arnold accepted and read a letter of retirement received from Steve Rickershauser, Plumbing Sub-code for the Borough of Palmyra.

PRESENTATION

Jim and Shirley Alturo then donated a picture of the old sewer/water works plant to the Borough for them to display. Mayor Arnold and Borough Council thanked them for the donation.

Mayor Arnold then read a special proclamation to Palmyra resident, Les Jamerson, reckoning has many years of service to the community, his ability to truly embrace the meaning of the "Holiday Spirit", his infectious "HO HO HO!", for selflessly giving of his time and generosity to warm the hearts of young and older residents of the community, and for taking the time to listen and making wishes come true. Mr. Jamerson thanked the Mayor, Borough Council and all the elves that help make the Holiday fun and exciting for our children and residents.

PROFESSIONAL UPDATE

Mr. Winckowski indicated they are trying to finish up Grove Park before they break for the winter. Mr. Winckowski indicated the tables and benches are due in and will be installed this week. Mr. Winckowski noted the signs are in and they are working with the contractor to get them up and running. Mr. Winckowski stated the signs were shipped with the incorrect parts so they will have to get a replacement parts from the vendor, which may take a couple of weeks. Mr. Winckowski stated they would come back in the spring to do the final grading and grass.

Mr. Kirchner indicated the bids are in for the annual maintenance contracts which will be awarded at the reorganization meeting. Mr. Kirchner noted the HVAC contract was actually low bid by a new company, McClosky Mechanical which we have not worked with before however upon checking their references they did come back well. Mr. Kirchner indicated the water company was able to get in last week and pave the rest of their part of the residential streets 2018 Road Program. Mr. Kirchner indicated Leconey Avenue, Orchard and Filmore which should be done by our contractor, have not yet been paved. Mr. Kirchner indicated we are running into a weather problem with Orchard and Filmore and would like to hold off until the spring to complete them when the weather is more conducive. Mr. Kirchner indicated for Leconey Avenue to be paved this year we entered into a contract with NJ American Water Company's paving contractor who is paving Van Sant Drive and this will be completed after Christmas. Mr. Kirchner also indicated another problem we are currently experiencing is the local asphalt plants are closing this Friday and it is unknown when they will be reopening. Mr. Kirchner indicated they usually don't close until January but due to the rainy season and the cold winter season they are closing earlier. Mr. Kirchner stated the reason we went with NJ American's Water's paving contractor is because they own their own asphalt plant and they open when NJ American Water Company tells them to open. Mr. Kirchner stated Veterans Drive which was in our 2018 Road Program

and is also not complete; the curb work was started, but due to the weather and inability to get asphalt, it too will be completed in the spring. Mrs. Tait asked if the residents on Van Sant Drive and Leconey Avenue would be notified of the paving. Mr. Kirchner indicated yes.

Mayor Arnold then introduced the two student representatives of Palmyra High School for Borough Council to the audience. Those representatives are Kaya Robinson and Patrick Tait, who will be serving in the upcoming year.

1ST PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Arnold asked for a motion to open the Public Portion. President Russell made a motion to open the public portion for comments. Mr. Yetter second the motion

All members present voted in favor of the motion

Mr. Smith- Van Sant Drive – Mr. Smith asked if the amount of water being pumped onto the street would affect the contractor’s ability to pave. Mr. Kirchner indicated they were aware of it and the contractor would probably setup some sort of temporary piping system to get the water to the inlets and off the street, so they can pave. Mr. Smith stated, Mr. Kirchner indicated the notices would be coming out on Friday of this week or Monday of next week indicating they would be paving the following week. Mr. Smith stated the residents of Van Sant Drive have already received notices indicating they would be paving this week. Mr. Smith asked if the notices could go out this week so people would know the paving would not be done this week but will be next week. Mr. Kirchner indicated he would talk to the contractor about re-noticing the residents this week.

Mr. Miller and Ms. Still – Veterans Drive – Mr. Miller indicated that current concrete work is being done on the 300 block of Veterans Drive. Mr. Kirchner indicated yes, it was started last Friday and they finished what they could today. Mr. Miller indicated he spoke with one of the contractors who indicated his property and Ms. Still’s property 412 Veterans and 414 Veterans Drive were not on the list to have their driveway aprons replaced. Mr. Miller noted his and Ms. Stills are in need of repair. Mr. Kirchner indicated they were not finished but because of the weather had to stop. Mr. Kirchner indicated they would be back to finish in the spring. Mr. Miller asked if there was something which could be done with the potholes until the streets are paved. Mr. Gural indicated public works will still be repairing potholes as long as we can obtain asphalt.

No one else from the public wishing to be heard, President Russell made a motion to close the public portion, Mr. Yetter second the motion.

All members present voted in favor of the motion.

Mr. Gural went thru the 2018 Best Practices Inventory as required by the State of New Jersey; he read and explained all questions also explaining the Borough’s response to each question. Of the 61 questions the Borough answered 43 questions “yes”, two questions “no” and 11 with N/A and 5 with prospective for a total score of twenty-three, which was certified by the Chief Financial Officer, Municipal Clerk and Administrator. The Borough has a final score of 59 which is a 97%, making the

Borough eligible for full CMPTRA and ETR aid from the State. The full Best Practices Worksheet CY 2018/SFY 2019 is available on the Borough of Palmyra's website at www.boroughofpalmyra.com.

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING – Public Hearings

Ordinance 2018-18, An Ordinance of the Borough of Palmyra, County Of Burlington, State Of New Jersey, Creating a new Chapter 206 of the Code of the Borough of Palmyra Entitled “The Regulation of Vacant Properties”

Mayor Arnold asked for a motion to open Ordinance 2018-18 for public hearing. President Russell made a motion to open Ordinance 2018-18 for public comments. Mr. Yetter second the motion

All members present voted in favor of the motion

Mr. Gural noted that a letter was received this afternoon from Pro Capital, which was included in everyone's packet, expressing their thoughts regarding, proposed Ordinance 2018-18. Mr. Gural indicated they had opportunity to be present tonight if they wished and they elected to send a letter instead. Mr. Gural stated they take exception to various elements of the proposed ordinance. Ms. Weiner asked Mr. Gural if there was something which stood out which they take exception to. Mr. Gural indicated no. Mr. Rosenberg stated we have a time issue. If the governing body does not move on this Ordinance then everything proceeds under the old Ordinance and everyone gets billed as of January 1st, 2019 under the old Ordinance. Mr. Rosenberg and Mr. Gural noted that un-adopted Ordinances do not carry over into the new year, so the governing body would be tasked with beginning the change of the current Ordinance regarding vacant properties from the beginning again and would still have to bill current vacant properties under the old one. Ms. Weiner indicated she still has concerns regarding the ordinance and does not feel it is where it should be. After some additional discussion among the governing body Mayor Arnold asked for a motion to close the public

No one else wishing to be heard, President Russell made a motion to close the public hearing, Mr. Yetter second the motion.

All members present voted in favor of the motion.

President Russell then made a motion to approve Ordinance 2018-18, An Ordinance of the Borough of Palmyra, County Of Burlington, State Of New Jersey, Creating a new Chapter 206 of the Code of the Borough of Palmyra Entitled “The Regulation of Vacant Properties”. Mr. Yetter second the motion.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Allmond, Mr. Howard Mrs. Tait, Ms. Weiner, Mr. Yetter, President Russell

NAYES:

Ordinance 2018-18 was approved

Ordinance 2018-19, An Ordinance of the Borough of Palmyra, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, Adopting the updated Drug-Free Zone Map dated July 12th, 2018 prepared by CME Associates

Mayor Arnold asked for a motion to open Ordinance 2018-19 for public hearing. President Russell made a motion to open Ordinance 2018-19 for public comments. Mr. Yetter second the motion

All members present voted in favor of the motion

No one from the public wishing to be heard, Mrs. Tait made a motion to close the public hearing. Mr. Yetter second the motion.

All members present voted in favor of the motion.

Mrs. Tait then made a motion to approve Ordinance 2018-19, An Ordinance of the Borough of Palmyra, County of Burlington, State of New Jersey, Adopting the updated Drug-Free Zone Map dated July 12th, 2018 prepared by CME Associates. Mr. Yetter second the motion.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Allmond, Mr. Howard Mrs. Tait, Ms. Weiner, Mr. Yetter, President Russell

NAYES: None

Ordinance 2018-19 was approved

RESOLUTIONS Consent Agenda

Mayor Arnold indicated Resolution **2018-254** and Resolution **2018-277** thru Resolution **2018-292** be enacted as a single motion, noting if any resolution needs additional discussion it will be removed from the consent agenda and voted on separately. Mayor asked if any resolutions needed to be removed from the consent agenda.

Ms. Weiner requested Resolution 2018-254 be removed from the consent agenda for additional discussion and Mr. Gural requested Resolution 2018-287 be pulled from the consent agenda as additional information is needed and it is not ready for vote tonight

Resolution 2018-254, Resolution of the Borough of Palmyra, County of Burlington Authorizing the Purchase and Installation of Office 365 Migration Project by Networks Plus per their proposal dated 10/10/2018 in an amount not to exceed \$15,614.00.

Resolution 2018-277, Resolution Approving Dominic A. Belton as an Member of the Junior Firefighters' Auxiliary to the Palmyra Fire Department

Resolution 2018-278, Resolution of the Borough of Palmyra, County of Burlington Authorizing a Lien be placed on Blk. 81 Lot 13.01 for Failure to Comply with Obnoxious Growth and Property Maintenance Violations

Resolution 2018-279, Resolution of the Borough of Palmyra, County of Burlington Authorizing a Lien be placed on Blk. 3 Lot 9.02 for Failure to Comply with Obnoxious Growth and Property Maintenance Violations

Resolution 2018-280, Resolution of the Borough of Palmyra, County of Burlington Authorizing a Lien be placed on Blk. 61 Lot 14 for Failure to Comply with Obnoxious Growth and Property Maintenance Violations

Resolution 2018-281, Resolution of the Borough of Palmyra, County of Burlington Authorizing a Lien be placed on Blk. 122 Lot 11 for Failure to Comply with Obnoxious Growth and Property Maintenance Violations

Resolution 2018-282, Resolution of the Borough of Palmyra, County of Burlington Authorizing a Lien be placed on Blk. 104 Lot 7 for Failure to Comply with Obnoxious Growth and Property Maintenance Violations

Resolution 2018-283, Resolution of the Borough of Palmyra, County of Burlington Authorizing a Lien be placed on Blk. 35 Lot 6 for Failure to Comply with Obnoxious Growth and Property Maintenance Violations

Resolution 2018-284, Resolution of the Borough of Palmyra, County of Burlington Authorizing a Lien be placed on Blk. 63 Lot 2 for Failure to Comply with Obnoxious Growth and Property Maintenance Violations

Resolution 2018-285, Resolution of the Borough of Palmyra, County of Burlington Authorizing a Lien be placed on Blk. 89 Lot 12 for Failure to Comply with Obnoxious Growth and Property Maintenance Violations

Resolution 2018-286, Resolution of the Borough of Palmyra, County of Burlington Authorizing a Lien be placed on Blk. 126 Lot 12 for Failure to Comply with Obnoxious Growth and Property Maintenance Violations

Resolution 2018-287, Resolution of the Borough of Palmyra amending the Revised Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual adopted on October 15, 2018 via Resolution 2018-245, with a new effective date of January 1, 2019.

Resolution 2018-288, Resolution Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to Make Budget Transfers to the 2018 Budget

Resolution 2018-289, Resolution of the Borough of Palmyra to join the Southern New Jersey Regional Employee Benefits Fund and Authorizing the Mayor to execute the Indemnity and Trust Agreement.

Resolution 2018-290, Resolution appointing Donna Condo as Fund Commissioner for the Southern New Jersey Regional Employee Benefits Fund

Resolution 2018-291, Resolution of the Borough of Palmyra authorizing participation in the Superior Vision Group Plan for employee benefits pursuant to Hardenbergh Insurance Group's quote of \$17.31 per employee annually as provided on December 3, 2018.

Resolution 2018-292, Resolution Authorizing the Payment of Bills for the Month of December 2018 In the Amount of \$1,776,768.22

Mayor Arnold went to **Resolution 2018-254**, Resolution of the Borough of Palmyra, County of Burlington Authorizing the Purchase and Installation of Office 365 Migration Project by Networks Plus per their proposal dated 10/10/2018 in an amount not to exceed \$15,614.00.

Ms. Weiner indicated she is trying to understand this purchase. Ms. Weiner indicated the setup fees are \$1,200.00 plus \$4,500.00, and an annual fee of \$4,584.00. Ms. Weiner stated there is also a fee for the \$5,200.0 for the I Cloud backup which is also a yearly fee. Ms. Weiner stated that we would spend

\$15,000.00 for this system and every year after and additional \$10,000.00. Mr. Gural indicated he could not speak to what future governing bodies would do, however currently that is the plan. Ms. Weiner asked Mr. Gural to explain why this is so important. Mr. Gural explained; municipalities are required to maintain public records for extended periods of time. (OPRA) Mr. Gural stated currently we have no mechanism to retain emails; which we are required to do; Microsoft Office 365 gives us that ability and allows us to be compliant with state law. Mr. Gural noted this is what we need to ensure that electronic communications are lost, damaged or destroyed. President Russell noted that recently Ms. Jackson received an OPRA request which required everyone to go thru their emails and to send to her, as the custodian of the records, all emails pertaining to various topics. President Russell indicated she spent hours searching thru emails that if we had this system, the emails would have been able to be pull from the server. Mr. Gural noted some other circumstances which cost us thousands of dollars in legal fees because emails where sent from the Borough staff, governing body etc. that were sent, which we could not produce. Ms. Johns indicated it is important that we have a central location to search for emails. Ms. Johns noted there is also three year retention on all correspondence, which includes emails; litigation retention is seven years, there is nothing with a six month retention schedule. Mr. Gural stated Ms. Jackson, as the custodian of the records, is responsible to provide all records requested thru OPRA requests, etc., and if she does not produce those records in a timely manner she can be fined and potentially loose her RMC license. After some additional discussion Mayor Arnold asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2018-254. President Russell made a motion to approve Resolutions 2018-254. Mr. Yetter seconded the motion.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Allmond, Mr. Howard, Mrs. Tait, Ms. Weiner, Mr. Yetter, President Russell

NAYES: None

Resolution 2018-254 was approved

Mayor Arnold asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda Resolutions 2018-277 thru Resolution 2018-286 and Resolution 2018-288 thru Resolution 2018-292. President Russell made a motion to approve Resolutions 2018-277 thru Resolution 2018-286 and Resolution 2018-288 thru Resolution 2018-292. Mr. Yetter seconded the motion.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Allmond, Mr. Howard, Mrs. Tait, Ms. Weiner, Mr. Yetter, President Russell

NAYES: None

Resolutions noted in motion were approved

MOTION TO APPROVE TREASURER'S REPORTS

President Russell made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for November 2018. Mr. Yetter second the motion.

At the call of the roll.

AYES: Mr. Allmond, Mr. Howard, Mrs. Tait, Ms. Weiner, Mr. Yetter, President Russell

NAYES: None

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Mayor Arnold noted the holiday Tree Lighting and Santa visit was a great success and fun was had by all.

Mayor Arnold noted the "Read Across America" program is March 4th, March 5th, and March 8th, 2019 at Charles Street School.

Mayor Arnold stated there would be a home holiday decorating contest, Ms. Weiner indicated she would update the flyer and Mayor Arnold indicated the participants responses should be sent to the community center email and Mr. Gural should post the information and various categories on the website and applications should also be available in the lobby. Mayor Arnold and Ms. Weiner indicated additional information will follow.

Ms. Weiner stated the PIA Winter Market was held on Saturday from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm and was a great success for many of our local businesses as well as a lot of fun for all. Mrs. Tait indicated it was good to see families out together. Mrs. Tait indicated she would like to see someone from council be on point with them so that things could be done correctly and in a timely manner.

Mrs. Tait thanked the students of Palmyra High School, especially Abby Leavy for the train she constructed in the community center. Mrs. Tait thanked the community center staff and all those who help to make it a great event.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

NEW Business

Mrs. Tait stated the MLK Day of Service will be held at the community center on January 21st, 2019.

Mrs. Tait noted during the day, between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm, various organizations will be cleaning the community center and in the evening about 6:30 we will host the Call to Action. Mrs. Tait indicated they would like to serve the participants of the cleanup lunch and inquired from council if that would be ok. Council agreed.

Mr. Gural noted that all needs for various functions or public events should be discussed at council meetings so that everyone is aware of what is going on and the staff is aware of what they need to do so way don't have last minute surprises.

Mrs. Tait also noted that public events is trying to do something for Black History Month in February, she asked if anyone has any suggestions please let her know.

Mr. Gural, Mayor Arnold and Borough Council went over and discussed the meeting dates for 2019.

Mr. Gural forwarded the Attorney General/NJ DEP press release to everyone regarding the Fillit property and noted it appears the Attorney General's office is currently pursuing litigation for the contamination on the Southside of Rt. 73.

Mr. Gural noted we rice noticed Mr. Phil Opalski regarding his employment so we are free to speak about this. Mr. Gural stated Mr. Opalski was hired to complete housing and building inspections for the BOP one day a week additionally one day a week he worked for CGP&H, who we contracted with, to also complete housing inspections. Mr. Gural stated when we signed the contract last year with CGP&H we indicated it would be the last year for that contract. Mr. Gural recommended we give Mr. Opalski the additional hours and increase his hourly rate by three dollars; hence we will be saving money as we will not be paying CHP&H directly for those inspections. Mr. Gural indicated there will be a resolution on the agenda at reorganization for your consideration.

Mr. Gural indicated the proposed 2019 lease agreement with Independence Fire Co. #1 is a matter for closed session.

Mr. Gural stated Ms. Johns, our Tax collector, received a request for assignment of a Municipal held Tax Sale Certificate from RTLS Holding Company for a particular property. Mr. Gural indicated he did not recommend the governing body approve the request and noted it is for the parking lot property behind Palmyra Liquors.

Mayor Arnold noted the Opportunity Zone seminar she and Mr. Gural attended is by far one of the best they have attended. Mayor Arnold indicated we are waiting for some additional information from the State.

Mr. Gural stated we received the Certified General Election results from the County Clerk and the reason it is here is because of the public question regarding the additional hours of alcohol sales on Sundays, the votes were 1564 yes and 927 no.

OLD Business

Mayor Arnold indicated the Grove Park paver block engraving/donation program will have a separate email address, engravedpavers@boroughofpalmyra.com which all orders and information will be disseminated thru. Mayor Arnold noted the paving blocks are \$50.00 each and once we have the first 50 ordered we can call the engraver to begin the process of engraving. Mayor Arnold stated the forms will be available on the website and in the lobby.

Mayor Arnold noted we are waiting for one more disconnect utility letter and once received the demolition of 400 Arch St can proceed.

Mr. Gural noted we received the official notice from the redeveloper of the old PNC Bank Building indicating he has contacted the property owner, held negotiations for sale but however have not be able to agree on the sales price. The eminent domain law requires him, the redeveloper, to notify us of that fact and the redevelopment agreement we have with the redeveloper requires him to post with the Borough fifteen thousand dollars, which would be used for any costs associated with acquisition of that property. Mr. Gural stated before anything can be done the property must be professionally appraised.

Mr. Gural indicated we were hoping to use Benchmark Appraisal Group and wanted to have their proposal and complete scope of work tonight but have not received it as of yet. Mr. Brewer, our redevelopment counsel did prepare a resolution for your consideration tonight. Mr. Gural stated this must be approved by the governing body before we can move forward and noted the appraisal is being paid for by the property owner.

Mr. Gural read the resolution. **Resolution 2018-293**, Resolution to authorize the preparation of an appraisal of certain properties declared in need of redevelopment pursuant to the local redevelopment and housing law NJSA 40A:12A-1, contingent upon approval of our attorneys and certification of our CFO.

Mayor Arnold asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2018-293. President Russell made a motion to approve Resolutions 2018-293. Mr. Yetter seconded the motion.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Allmond, Mr. Howard, Mrs. Tait, Ms. Weiner, Mr. Yetter, President Russell

NAYES: None

Resolution 2018-293 was approved

Mr. Gural indicated the replacement of Plumbing Sub-code Official Steven Rickershauser, who is retiring December 31st, 2018, will be on the agenda on January 7th, 2019.

Mr. Gural indicated the pending Medical marijuana and adult usage laws are being discussed at the State level. Medical marijuana has been approved already. Mr. Gural noted in the last week we have had two requests from potential business people who would like to open medical marijuana distribution facilities in Palmyra. Mr. Gural noted this is being discussed in many municipalities all over the state. Mr. Gural indicated he asked Mr. Gerkens to prepare a report with some information and indicated it is something council will have to consider in January of 2019.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Mr. Gural indicated in your packets is the information from the current BAN sale which was conducted last week with the net interest rate being 2.388%.

Mr. Gural indicated the snowflakes lights will be staying up until the end of February. Mr. Gural noted Religh's will be coming about one week after new year, to take down the holiday light displays which they will be keeping and we will be taking down the rope lights and bows. Mr. Gural indicated he would forward all the information he has to the governing body regarding the Palmyra banners and suggested they form a committee to go over it and bring their ideas back to the governing body.

Mr. Gural indicated the public hearing for the re-examination of the Master Plan by the Land Use Board will be held December 19, 2018 at 7:00 PM at Borough Hall.

Mr. Gural indicated we have a signed agreement with American Recycling Resources for the clothing bin at public works and we will be receiving ninety dollars a month from American Recycling for it being at that location.

Mr. Gural indicated the Legion Field lights have been repaired so currently all lights are functioning properly.

Mr. Gural stated the water company is doing some reconfiguration at Bridge Toll Plaza and as results they are putting in two new fire hydrants. Mr. Gural stated the Bridge Commission has asked the Borough to take ownership of those hydrants, and he agreed, as the cost to the municipality is significantly lower than the cost for privately owned hydrants. The municipality cost is \$42.00 per month if privately owned it is \$172.00 per month.

Mr. Gural noted in your packets is the mortgage foreclosure action for a particular property which has a rehab grant. Mr. Gural stated we are not recommending the Borough take any action or purchase the property.

Mr. Gural stated the Tax Sale report is in your packet, and Ms. Johns is present if you have questions.

Mr. Gural stated the Roots for Rivers Reforestation Grant was approved a couple of months back however after further review it is just too difficult and requires significant engineering requirements and plans in advance in the hopes of winning the grant. Mr. Gural indicated our recommendation is not to apply for that grant this year, as it is just not cost effective at this time.

Mr. Gural indicated Mr. Kirchner updated the miscellaneous bid openings earlier in the meeting.

Mr. Gural noted the Bowman & Company, NJ Municipal Budget Process Seminar will be held January 24th, 2018, the information is in your packets and anyone interested in attending should let Marie know so she can RSVP.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Yetter – Public Works, Redevelopment and Negotiations – Mr. Yetter indicated the public works committee met earlier this evening and the Green Team is not going to meet again until next year. Mayor Arnold thanked Mr. Yetter for his service on Borough Council and asked him to continue to serve on the Land Use Board, which he has accepted.

Mr. Howard – Youth and Recreation, Public Building, Grounds and Parks – Mr. Howard indicated had nothing to report currently. There was some discussion regarding PAL RIV storing their basketballs in a community center closet. Mr. Gural suggested those discussions should be held with Ms. Sykes and Ms. Jackson who could best work out some sort of arrangement for those balls however noting the community center staff would not be responsible for them and we would look into fixing the lock on the closet doors in the gym. Mr. Howard stated they will work it out.

Ms. Weiner – Administration and Finance, Business and Community Development, Homeowner Association – Ms. Weiner indicated she had nothing to report currently.

Mrs. Tait – Public Safety Committee, Board of Education, Public Events– Mrs. Tait indicated she attended the Board of Education meeting, which held the fall recognition awards. Mrs. Tait indicated no public safety committee meeting was held however asked Mayor Arnold if she had a meeting with Chief Dreby and the Cinnaminson Fire Commission involving the possibility of a shared service with the new ladder truck. Mayor Arnold indicated no, however noted the Chief of the Cinnaminson Fire Department had some questions about maybe something moving forward in the future as far as shared services. Mayor Arnold stated it was just a conversation and a question as to whether or not they would formulate a committee of the fire department to talk about training, who does what training, what they could share, and what that might look like and put something together which they could then present if there is any opportunity there for some kind of a shared service. Mrs. Tait inquired, was this done in a meeting with them or what they some correspondence. Mayor Arnold indicated no, they sat down and had a conversation with them. Mrs. Tait asked why public safety was not notified. Mayor Arnold stated it has nothing to do with public safety at this point, it was them just asking questions and we listened. Mayor Arnold noted their fire department is working on it and coming up with some ideas. Mayor Arnold stated, certainly it would come to the public safety committee and borough council.

Mr. Allmond –Communications and Public Relations Committee– Mr. Allmond indicated he had nothing to report currently.

President Russell – Shade Tree Liaison – President Russell stated she attended Charles Street School Winter concerts this past week and it was a great program.

Mayor Arnold stated on Saturday she went with the CERT Team and the Fire Department to Beverly National Cemetery for the “Wreaths Across America Program” which was a very moving experience. Mayor Arnold noted 2900 wreaths were laid at the grave sites of the soldier buried in that Cemetery.

2nd PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Arnold asked for a motion to open the Public Portion. President Russell made a motion to open the public portion for comments. Mr. Yetter second the motion

All members present voted in favor of the motion

Mr. Smith– Van Sant Drive– Mr. Smith asked how much the snowflakes cost a piece. Mr. Gural indicated the bill was about \$7,300.00. Mr. Smith asked how much the bows were. Mr. Gural indicated \$48.00 each. Mr. Smith stated he was very unhappy with them and felt it was a waste of tax payer money. Mr. Weiner stated other people reached out to her and indicated they were very nice. Mr. Smith asked what the final figure was on the cost of Grove Park. Mr. Gural and Mayor Arnold indicated we don’t have the total on that yet. Mr. Smith stated why was all the concrete put in, a park is grass. Mr. Smith stated it was all done for the Farmers Market. Ms. Weiner stated it was not done for the Farmers Market and noted she mention several times that it was not her preference to have that concrete put in there. Mrs. Weiner also noted it was all designed before she got on council. Mr. Smith stated the park does not look nice at all and was a waste of taxpayer money. Mrs. Smith asked where the money for the bricks is going. Mayor Arnold stated after the cost of the engraving is done we don’t anticipate there being any left over money but if it were it would go to miscellaneous income.

No one else from the public wishing to be heard, President Russell made a motion to close the public portion. Mr. Yetter second the motion.

All members present voted in favor of the motion.

Mayor Arnold asked if there was any business for executive session. Mr. Gural yes, a contract matter

Mayor Arnold asked for a motion to approve **Resolution 2018–294**. President Russell made a motion to approve Resolution 2018–294, Resolution Excluding the Public from Certain Meetings pursuant to section 89 of the Open Public Meeting Act C. 231 P.L. 1975 regarding Contracts ,Litigation. Mr. Yetter second the motion.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

AYES. Mr. Allmond, Mr. Howard, Mrs. Tait, Ms. Weiner, Mr. Yetter, President Russell

NAYES. None

Resolution 2018–294 is approved

Borough Council went into closed session at 9:31 PM

Closed Session

Borough Council returned from closed session at 10:07 PM

President Russell made a motion to open to the public. Mr. Yetter second the motion.

All voted in favor of the motion.

Mayor Arnold asked for a motion to adjourn.

President Russell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Yetter second the motion.

All voted in favor of the motion

Meeting adjourned at 10:08 PM

Respectfully Submitted

Doretha R Jackson, RMC

Municipal Clerk