

Borough of Palmyra
Council Caucus Meeting Minutes
Monday February 3rd, 2020

The Council Caucus Meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Palmyra was called to order by Mayor Tait at 6:33PM

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Brandon Allmond, Farrah Jenkins, Michelle McCann, Bernadette Russell, President Timothy Howard, Mayor Gina Ragomo Tait

ABSENT: none

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

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS STATEMENT Mayor Tait read the following 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 9th, 2020.
- Mailing written notice to the Burlington County Times, and the Courier Post Newspaper on January 9th, 2019.
- Notice to All Council Members.

OATH OF OFFICE

Dr. Laura Craig Cloud was sworn in as Councilmember filling the unexpired seat of Gina Tait, term to expire December 31, 2020.

Oath of Office was given by Ted Rosenberg, Esq.

ROLL CALL OF COMPLETE COUNCIL

PRESENT: Brandon Allmond, Laura Cloud, Farrah Jenkins, Michelle McCann, Bernadette Russell, President Timothy Howard, Mayor Gina Ragomo Tait

ABSENT: none

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Tait requested a motion for approval of the, May 20th, 2019 Regular Council Meeting Minutes.

Mrs. Russell made a motion to approve the minutes from the, Regular Council Meeting of May 20th, 2019. President Howard second the motion.

At the call of the roll the vote was:

INFAVOR. Mr. Allmond, Mrs. McCann, Mrs. Russell, President Howard

AGAINST: None

ABSTAIN: Mrs. Jenkins, Dr. Cloud

Motion Carried

Mayor Tait requested a motion for approval of the, December 2nd, 2019 Redevelopment Agency Meeting Minutes.

Mrs. Russell made a motion to approve the minutes from the, Redevelopment Agency Meeting of December 2nd, 2019. President Howard second the motion.

At the call of the roll the vote was:

INFAVOR: Mr. Allmond, Mrs. McCann, Mrs. Russell, President Howard

AGAINST: None

ABSTAIN: Mrs. Jenkins, Dr. Cloud

Motion Carried

Mayor Tait requested a motion for approval of the, December 2nd, 2019 Council Caucus Meeting Minutes.

Mrs. Russell made a motion to approve the minutes from the, Council Caucus Meeting of December 2nd, 2019. President Howard second the motion.

At the call of the roll the vote was:

INFAVOR: Mr. Allmond, Mrs. McCann, Mrs. Russell, President Howard

AGAINST: None

ABSTAIN: Mrs. Jenkins, Dr. Cloud

Motion Carried

Mayor Tait requested a motion for approval of the, December 2nd, 2019 Executive Session Meeting Minutes.

Mrs. Russell made a motion to approve the minutes from the, December 2nd, 2019 Executive Session meeting. President Howard second the motion.

At the call of the roll the vote was:

INFAVOR: Mr. Allmond, Mrs. McCann, Mrs. Russell, President Howard

AGAINST: None

ABSTAIN: Mrs. Jenkins, Dr. Cloud

Motion Carried

Mayor Tait requested a motion for approval of the, January 4th, 2020 Reorganization Meeting Minutes.

Mrs. Russell made a motion to approve the minutes from the, Reorganization Meeting of January 4th, 2020. President Howard second the motion.

At the call of the roll the vote was:

AYES: Mr. Allmond, Mrs. Jenkins, Mrs. McCann, Mrs. Russell, President Howard

INFAVOR: None

AGAINST: Dr. Cloud

Motion Carried

CORRESPONDENCE

Municipal Clerk, Ms. Jackson acknowledged the following correspondence received.

Letter – Cory A Booker, US Senator

Letter- Donna DuAime-Ward, crossing guard

Letter – Officer of Director of US Department of Commerce

Letter- Jennifer M Coffey, Executive Director Association of NJ Environmental Commissions

E-mail- David Mayer, NJ American Water Co.

REDEVELOPMENT

Route 73 South Redevelopment Area

Mr. Gural noted that Stock Development Group's land acquisition partner Cherokee Equities filed the writ of execution with the Sheriff's Department and the sheriff's sale is scheduled for that property on March 5th, 2020. Mr. Gural indicated we applied for a permit to allow for soil borings on the Fillit property. Mr. Gural indicated after many discussions we were permitted to do so and those borings have been completed and the data is currently being analyzed and we should have within the month. Mr. Gural noted this was done to determine the composition of the soil and other materials in the landfill area to determine what type of foundation system could be constructed there.

John Hogue, ERM indicated there has been a lot of development since he was here last. He stated there have been a number of meetings in the past months focused on reducing the uncertainties of the project. Mr. Hogue indicated the geo technical, which indicates what you can build and how it needs to be built; they have completed and are now analyzing the data. Mr. Hogue indicated another uncertainty identified by the team was land use permitting, which defines where is buildable or not with regards to wetlands. Mr. Hogue indicated a follow up meeting with DEP was held in Trenton to lay out what we felt would be an appropriate permit plan. Mr. Hogue indicated that DEP agreed with what was presented. Mr. Hogue also noted a meeting was held with EPA and the team to get an understanding of what the remediation would actually be. Mr. Hogue indicated they are currently costing out the remediation, noting monies are still available in the grant available for investigation work. Mr. Hogue indicated he will be submitting disbursement requests for grant money. Mr. Gural handed out a potential concept plan of what can go on site. Mr. Gural indicated when putting the redevelopment agreement together council needs to determine what things they wish to get into the redevelopment agreement. Mr. Rosenberg explained how we have gotten to the point where we are currently and what will be happening moving forward, noting a lot of work still needs to be done. Mr. Gural indicated the current redevelopment plan was adopted in 2005 and it was amended over the years but will need to be updated and amended again. Mrs. Russell asked has there been anything done regarding the traffic on 73 South. Mr. Gural indicated that is a state road and we would not be involved in that discussion yet. Mrs. Russell asked about the housing and building on the Southside noting concerns about the contamination in the area. Mr. Gural indicated all safety things needed to be complete will be done before we build anything in the area. Dr. Cloud inquired if there had been discussion with the redeveloper in regards to avoidance of impact to the wetlands that fall outside of the landfill area. Mr.

Gural indicated yes. Dr. Cloud asked if there had been conversations about mitigation in excess of what is required by land use permitting. Mr. Gural indicated not likely, he explained why noting the environmental issues we are facing on the Southside. Dr. Cloud indicated it would be wise for us to consider asking the developer to go beyond the minimum requirements of the Land Use mitigation. Mr. Gural indicated everything is negotiable. Mrs. McCann asked how the affordable housing affects the school and the school district, inquiring if the school district becomes involved in the planning. Mr. Gural indicated typically not but they could noting those decisions are made by the governing body. He explained. There was some discussion regarding the impact on the schools and busing. Mr. Brewer indicated all the issues which were brought up are things which will need to be discussed with the redeveloper which is why the negotiation of the redevelopment agreement is so important, noting that's why all those things needs to be figured out prior to signing agreement.

620-622 Highland Avenue Redevelopment Area

Mr. Brewer indicated the complaint was filed seeking to take the property by eminent domain. Mr. Brewer stated the property owner got an extension and opposed the complaint. Mr. Brewer indicated their complaint was out of time and on January 24th, 2020 in court, the court agreed with the Borough and that all things were done properly and ruled the Borough is legally entitled to take the property by eminent domain. Mr. Brewer stated the court assigned commissioners to determine the value of the property. Mr. Brewer indicated that meeting will be held during the week of April 6th. Mr. Brewer indicated the next step is to file the declaration of taking, which needs to be filed with the \$135,000.00 from the redeveloper. Mr. Brewer noted if the commission finds the property is valued higher the Borough /redeveloper will have to pay the difference. Mr. Gural indicated the funds from the redeveloper should be here tomorrow. Mr. Rosenberg asked if the redeveloper agreed to post security in the event the property is found higher than the \$135,000.00. Mr. Brewer indicated he has notified them of that but has not yet had a response. Mr. Brewer indicated the deed will have a reversion clause if they have not posted security in some amount.

Former K of C, Area In Need of Redevelopment Study

Mr. Gural stated he spoke with Mr. Gerkens and he will have the area in need of redevelopment study available in March to present to the Land Use Board and the governing body. Mr. Gural read the police report regarding the current owners of the Knights of Columbus property.

Mr. Gural noted a service which ERM provided for us was maintaining all the records on a FTP site for the Redevelopment area on the South side of Rt. 73. Mr. Gural indicated that site expired and Mr. Hogue transferred all the data to a new file sharing site. Mr. Gural indicated once it is up and running he will forward all that information to the governing body. Mr. Gural noted it is the complete history of the site and what has occurred regarding remediation on the various properties. Mr. Gural stated the new one will have tighter controls.

PROFESSIONAL UPDATES

William Kirchner, Environmental Resolutions Inc.

Mr. Kirchner indicated there are three resolutions on agenda for approval tonight. He explained the resolutions and what each was for, noting the first was for engineer cost for the 5th and Race Street Road Improvement project. Mr. Kirchner indicated next, we received bids for the Public Road pump station elimination project, all of which exceeded the engineer's estimate, so their recommendation is to reject all bids and rebid the project in two parts. Mr. Gural indicated the funding is coming from sewer capital. Mr. Kirchner stated the last is for Borough Hall grinder pumps. Mr. Kirchner explained the reoccurring problem and noted the need to replace the current pumps with grinder pumps which will have to be rebuilt on an annually or 2/3 year basis. Mr. Gural indicated the funding is from the capital budget for Borough Hall improvements project.

Mr. Kirchner stated Mr. Gural forwarded his report regarding the condition of the Ethel B Hardy basketball court to the governing body. He explained the problems with the asphalt and how it cracks and breaks down. Mr. Kirchner indicated concrete would be nice however there is no way to construct the court without expansion joints which then interfere with the ability to dribble to ball. Mr. Kirchner indicated a couple of solutions were presented to repair with asphalt. Mr. Gural indicated currently we do not have funding for this project so it is something we will need to look at it during the budget process with capital funding. Mr. Kirchner indicated the Legion field soccer backstops are not holding up with the balls bouncing off them. Mr. Kirchner indicated they have requested quotes from various fence contractors which we will have for next meeting. Mr. Kirchner indicated the Temple Blvd. design plans are 90% complete and have been sent to DOT for them to do the environmental review. Mr. Kirchner indicated the plans will also be sent to the state so that portion can go out to bid in late February or early March. Mr. Kirchner spoke about the houses on 3rd street and the sewer situation. Mr. Gural explained we are doing what we can to help but it really is not a Borough issue. Mr. Kirchner indicated we have had some other issues with sewer backups so we will also be tv-ing the sewer the mains on Spring Garden Street, Rowland Avenue and Morgan Avenue down at Second and Bank Streets. Mr. Gural explained how the insurance works with claims regarding sewer backups. There was some additional discussion regarding the grinders to be placed in Borough Hall. Mrs. Jenkins asked what the cost would be every year for someone to come out and service the grinder pumps. Mr. Kirchner indicated approximately \$4,000.00 to \$5,000.00 per pump to replace. There was some additional discussion regarding the pumps repair costs and replacement costs. Mr. Gural indicated for now we will pass the resolution but will check to see if there are other options before we award the contract.

PUBLIC PORTION

Mayor Tait asked for a motion to open the Public Portion. Mrs. Russell made a motion to open the public portion for comments. President Howard second the motion

All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion Carried

Mr. Rader- Harbor Drive – Mr. Rader stated in order to understand the agenda for open public meetings and to make comments it must be divided into two sections. Mr. Rader stated the first section, the actual published agenda followed by comments from the professionals which is followed by the first

public session. The second section is the work session involving discussion items of new business, old business followed by the administrators report and committee reports. During this time additions are made corrections are made which are not listed on the public agenda. Mr. Rader indicated all comments taking place after the first public session doesn't allow the public to comment or ask questions on other things indicated in the second section. Mr. Rader stated "any other matters" was added to the public portion so council could cancel the second session. Mr. Rader stated this violates section 10: 4-12 of the Open Public Meeting Act. Mr. Rader asked should there be prayer during regular council meetings. Mr. Rader stated for four years the Mayor defended public rights and in four weeks the new Mayor and Council have begun to eliminate those rights. Mr. Rader indicated Councilmembers oath of office includes compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

Mr. McElwee - Columbia Avenue Mr. McElwee asked if the Masonic Lodge was in Palmyra or Cinnaminson (it's for sale). Mr. Gural indicated Cinnaminson. Mr. McElwee spoke about the grant which we did not receive for the renovations at the Veterans War Memorial. Mr. McElwee noted monies were received in other locations were Freeholders reside. Mr. McElwee indicated 250,000.00 was given for a basketball court. Mr. McElwee thanked Mr. Gural and Council for all their efforts in trying to obtain the funding.

Mrs. Veitenheimer – Rowland Street – Mrs. Veitenheimer agreed with Mr. Rader about public portion. Mrs. Veitenheimer stated she was finding it difficult to get here by 6:30 the new starting time for meetings. Mrs. Veitenheimer asked how old the computers are that are going to be replaced. Mr. Gural indicated about four or five years old. Mrs. Veitenheimer indicated her computer was older and she downloaded windows 10 to it so she did not understand why it was necessary to get all new computers. Mr. Gural explained the reason we have to have new computers. Mrs. Veitenheimer asked why we have a driveway ordinance that indicates the driveway has to go 3 ft from the property line, why can't we go right up to the property line. Mrs. Russell tried to explain. Mr. Gural explained that some properties go right to the property lines as they we installed prior to the Ordinance going into effect; he also noted anyone can go before the Land Use Board and request a variance.

Mrs. Holloway- Broad Street – Mrs. Holloway asked if it was correct that there was only one open public comment session during the meeting. Mayor Tait indicated yes noting that you can speak about anything during that public comment section. Mr. Rosenberg indicated we are in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Act as it only requires one opportunity during a public meeting for the public to speak or make comments. Mrs. Jenkins and Mrs. McCann explained that this opportunity was to allow the public to speak about anything earlier in the meeting so as not to keep some in the meeting who wished to speak about their specific concern and not stay for the entire meeting.

No one else from the public wishing to be heard, Mayor Tait asked for a motion to close the Public Portion. Mrs. Russell made a motion to close the public portion, President Howard second the motion.

All members present voted in favor of the motion. Motion Carried

RESOLUTIONS Consent Agenda

Resolution **2020-81** to Resolution **2020-92** will be enacted as a single motion, if any resolution needs additional discussion it will be removed from the consent agenda and voted on separately.

Mayor Tait asked if any items needed to be removed from the consent agenda. There were none.

Resolution 2020-81, Resolution Authoring the update of the Palmyra Police Department Policy & Procedures Manual to include Tier 1 Technical Policies 4.1 thru 4.6 and Tier 2 Technical Policies 4.1 thru 4.8.

Resolution 2020-82, Resolution Adopting the Burlington County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan

Resolution 2020-83, Resolution of the Borough of Palmyra Authorizing and Approving the Borough of Palmyra Police Department's Application and Participation for enrollment in the Law Enforcement Support Office (LESO) 1033 Program

Resolution 2020-84, Resolution Appointing Danielle Lippincott as part-time Tax Collector on an interim basis retroactive to January 18, 2020 with office hours on Monday evenings from 5:00 to 6:30 PM at the annual rate of \$14,000.00

Resolution 2020-85, Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Shared Services Agreement between the Borough and the Township of Cinnaminson for the Purchase of Brine Solution

Resolution 2020-86, Resolution awarding a contract to ERI for the 5th & Race Streets Roadway Improvement Project per their proposal dated December 11, 2019 in the amount of \$87,500.00 to be funded by capital improvements account.

Resolution 2020-87, Resolution authorizing purchase of 13 desktop computer workstations from All Covered and HP per proposal dated January 14, 2020 for replacement of computers with Windows 7 Operating System and upgrading to Windows 10 Professional, and related hardware, software and labor in the amount of \$23,792.00; this is a capital purchase exceeding \$15,000.

Resolution 2020-88, Resolution rejecting all bids received for the Sanitary Sewer Replacement – Public Road Pump Station Elimination Project as they significantly exceed the Engineer's Estimate per ERI's recommendation letter dated January 22, 2020.

Resolution 2020-89, Resolution Authorizing Mayor Gina Ragomo Tait to Execute the Agreement with the Burlington County Department of Public Works, Division of Mosquito Control

Resolution 2020-90, Resolution Awarding a contract to Municipal Maintenance Co. for the supply and installation of two Grundfos pumps and control panel per their Quotation dated January 27, 2020 in the amount of \$18,650.00; this is a capital purchase exceeding \$15,000.00.

Resolution 2020-91, Resolution Authorizing the Payment of Bills for the Month of January 2020 In the Amount of \$1,389,923.63.

Resolution 2020-92, Resolution awarding a contract to CME Assoc. for the GIS Mapping of CRS Information project per their attached proposal dated January 30, 2020 in the amount not-to-exceed \$6500.00.

Mayor Tait asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda Resolutions 2020-81 thru Resolution 2020-92. Mrs. Russell made a motion to approve Resolutions 2020-81 thru Resolution 2020-92. President Howard seconded the motion.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

INFAVOR: Mr. Allmond, Dr. Cloud, Mrs. Jenkins, Mrs. McCann, Mrs. Russell, President Howard

AGAINST: None

Motion Carried, Resolution 2020-81 thru Resolution 2020-92 were approved

MOTION TO APPROVE TREASURER'S REPORTS

Mayor Tait requested a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for December 2019. Mrs. Russell made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for December 2019. President Howard second the motion.

At the call of the roll:

INFAVOR: Mr. Allmond, Dr. Cloud, Mrs. Jenkins, Mrs. McCann, Mrs. Russell, President Howard

AGAINST: None

Motion Carried

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Mayor Tait indicated the MLK Day of Service was great. Mayor Tait noted it was a wonderful turnout and they packaged over 200 individual packages for the Service men and women abroad and the homeless shelter in Burlington County. Mayor Tait thanked FC Kerbeck for their donation of \$500.00 for the day of service event.

Mayor Tait noted the Fire Company's Annual Fisherman's Flea Market will be held this Saturday February 9th, 2020 at Charles Street School and begins at 9:00 am. Chief Dreby stated the event was sold out.

Mayor Tait stated the Rock the Block event with Habitat for Humanity and the PIA will be held on April 25th, 2020. Mayor Tait indicated they are seeking volunteers and will be working from Horace to Race Streets.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

NEW Business

Mayor Tait stated on February 16th, 2020 we will be presenting The Universal African Dance & Drum Ensemble for Black History month at the Community Center at 3:00 pm.

Mayor Tait stated the Easter Egg Hunt will be held on April 4th, 2020 at Legion Field at 9:00 am, and she thanked FC Kerbeck for their donation.

Mayor Tait stated the Palmyra Downtown & Public Safety Day will be held May 2nd, 2020 at 10:00 am, additional information to follow.

Mayor Tait noted the Borough of Palmyra Rabies Clinic will be held April 18th, 2020 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM outside of the Community Center.

Mayor Tait stated the Mayor's Advisory Board would like to begin March 12th, 2020 at 7:00 PM at the Community Center noting additional information will follow.

Mayor Tait went over the Council Committee Appointment changes including Public Safety Director and made the necessary additional appointments of committee chairpersons. Mayor Tait noted the changes; changing Public Safety Director to President Howard.

Committee Chairs as follows:

Mayor Tait: Redevelopment & Negotiations

President Howard: Public Safety & Municipal Court; Public Works & Sewer

Brandon Allmond: Communications & Public Relations

Michelle McCann: Public Buildings, Parks & Grounds; Youth and Recreation

Bernadette Russell: Contraction, Housing & Code Enforcement; Business Community & Development

Farrah Jenkins: Administration & Finance

Laura Cloud: Green Team

Appointing Laura Cloud to the following council committees: Member, Administration & Finance; Business Community & Development; Construction Housing & Code Enforcement; Green Team; Public Events Land Use Board Liaison (Class II Member)

Mayor Tait & President Howard will each be co-Liaison for Palmyra Harbour Condo Association

Mayor Tait requested a Motion to approve the amending of the Council Committee appointments. Mrs. Russell made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-93 amending Council Committee appointments and appointing Committee Chairpersons. All other appointments remain unchanged.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

INFAVOR: Mr. Allmond, Dr. Cloud, Mrs. Jenkins, Mrs. McCann, Mrs. Russell, President Howard

AGAINST: None

Motion Carried, Resolution 2020-93 was approved

Mayor Tait stated the resolution was passed earlier authorizing the Burlington County authorization request for Aerial Mosquito Control. Mr. Gural noted if anyone needed additional information regarding what chemicals they use Ms. Jackson has that information.

Mr. Allmond noted some changes to the current Palmyra High School Student Representatives to Borough Council policy. Mr. Allmond stated this year we received many applications and will be appointing two juniors to join the returning two seniors. Mr. Allmond noted the applications are in the agenda packet and he would like to appoint the two juniors at the next meeting February 18, 2020. Council agreed.

Mayor Tait stated that the Mayor's parking space located outside of the building she would like to make a Veterans parking space as she felt no need for a parking space. There was some discussion regarding handicap accessibility. Mr. Allmond stated there are handicap parking spaces located outside the building, but noted this space would be for any Veteran. Council agreed to order sign for Veteran Parking.

Mr. Gural noted that one laptop from the community center has been given to our tax collector Danielle so she can work remotely for the time being. Mr. Gural explained to the governing body that the current laptops they are using are also running Windows 7 which is no longer supported by Microsoft and must be replaced to continue if we want to continue to allow them connectivity to our server. Mr. Gural stated he would include monies in the capital budget for replacement which council can consider

at the budget meeting. President Howard asked if we were comprised at this point. Mrs. Jenkins indicated she might prefer a phone instead of the laptop. Mr. Gural indicated for the moment Borough Council can continue to use them however at some point they will be taken as we cannot have the security risk to the server. Mrs. Jenkins asked if the computers could be donated to other organizations. Mr. Gural stated we in the past gave some to the senior's program in the community center, however the problem is that there are outdated and we don't want the security risk for our server.

Mrs. Cloud noted the Palmyra Green Team in conjunction with the Riverton Green Team have been discussing an environmental film fest. Mrs. Cloud indicated they would like to show four documentaries between March 4th, 2020 and April 2nd, 2020. Mrs. Cloud stated the team was doing this in conjunction with Riverton's Green Team because of resources. Mrs. Cloud stated two films will be shown in Palmyra and two in Riverton at the following locations; Palmyra Nature Cove- April 2nd, 2020 and Central Baptist Church- March 5th, 2020 in Palmyra and The Riverton Porch Club - March 12th, 2020 and a private home - March 26th, 2020 in Riverton. Mrs. Cloud indicated they have been able to get the cost to \$50.00 for the screening rights of Plastic Ocean. There was some discussion regarding the cost and donations. Mayor Tait expressed concerns regarding showing films in a private residence. Mr. Rosenberg also expressed concerns about the showings in a private residences he noted those residences may not be handicap accessible or compliant. Mrs. Cloud indicated she would reach out to the person who is handling that date and look for another location.

Mr. Gural indicated if council is considering some additional holiday decorations now is the time as many things are on sale now. Mr. Gural proposed that Council create a committee to review the current sales and come back to council with some suggestions. Mrs. Jenkins, Mrs. Russell and Mrs. McCann volunteered to form a committee and look into decorations for the Borough for next year. Council indicated the committee could present proposals up to \$10,000.00.

Mr. Gural presented council with the proposal of the fire department for the upcoming budget and the potential of hiring two full-time firefighters. Mr. Gural indicated he wanted council to see it ahead of the budget meeting so they individually could look at and analyze it prior to the budget time. Mrs. Tait indicated the public safety committee wants to discuss it prior to the budget meeting, and will be holding their meeting next week.

Mr. Gural stated we received an offer to purchase 210 Arch St, an unimproved lot (Block 120, Lot 4), from New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency. Mr. Gural explained how the Borough came to own the lot noting the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency wanted to redeem the lien on the property. Mr. Gural stated Mr. Rosenberg has been working with their attorney regarding the potential purchase. Mr. Rosenberg stated they offered 24,000.00 which they indicate is the amount the Borough lost. Mr. Rosenberg indicated Ms. Lippincott sent him an email expressing the amount could be slightly higher than that. Mr. Rosenberg indicated given that there is nobody else interested and it is a non-conforming lot we should take the offer. There was some additional discussion and Mr. Gural indicated we should get it back on the tax rolls. Mr. Rosenberg indicated we should take the offer. Council asked Mr. Rosenberg to prepare the ordinance to sell the property to New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency for the amount of \$24,850.00; ordinance to be introduced at the next meeting.

Old Business

Mayor Tait indicated we did not get chosen for the Transform South Jersey, Community Heart & Soul Grant. Mayor Tait thanked those who worked so diligently on the project and noted how good it was to see everyone come out and work together on the project.

Mayor Tait stated we also did not receive the 2019 Burlington County Municipal Park Development Grant for improvements to the Veterans Memorial Park. Mayor Tait indicated we have spoken with a lot of people throughout the past week regarding the process of choosing the grant recipients. Mayor Tait noted, we were told, that there would be another round of funding for those who did not receive the grant funding but have not received any paperwork nor have we been notified as to how that funding would take place.

Mayor Tait indicated the Business and Community Development committee will be meeting with the down town business for the second time on February 13th, 2020 at 7:00 pm at the Community Center regarding the proposed amendments to the parking ordinance. Mrs. Russell indicated she could not make that date. Mayor Tait indicated they would get together and workout the date and time.

Mr. Gural indicated the lot immediately behind the liquor store could be an extension of what we currently have for parking from Leconey Avenue to Cinnaminson Avenue. Mr. Gural stated perhaps the Borough should consider purchasing. Mr. Gural indicated we are beginning the budget process and this could be a capital purchase. Mr. Gural noted that if Council wished to consider the potential purchase it would be necessary to have the property appraised. Mr. Gural noted if Council is in agreement then he would build that potential acquisition into the budget for further discussion at the budget meeting.

Mayor Tait indicated Mrs. McCann spoke with Tony in regards to the completion of the mural project. Mayor Tait indicated she would be stopping in later in the week. Mayor Tait stated Tony asked us to check on the things which were discussed with the previous Mayor and find out what and where she was on the project. Mrs. Russell indicated nothing regarding the project was shared with the committee. Mrs. Arnold always noted she would take care of it. Mrs. McCann stated we should reach out to Fast Signs and find out what was discussed and go from there. Mayor Tait indicated she would take care of it.

Mr. Gural indicated there are a number of people who have paid for pavers for the Chief Payton I. Flournoy Sr. Memorial Park. Mr. Gural indicated those people should get their bricks engraved and set as they have already paid for them. Mr. Gural indicated with Councils permission he would like to reach out to the engraver and follow up on a proposal the engraver sent regarding engraving and installing those 19 pavers and correcting the one paver. Council agreed.

Mr. Gural indicated the discussion regarding former Mayor Michelle Arnold and various investigations should be held in closed session.

President Howard indicated the committee had recently met with the youth athletic organizations regarding the Legion Field usage and potential fees. President Howard noted the organizations have placed their input into potential fees to be changed so we are ready to move forward. Mr. Gural indicated first the Ordinance regarding Field and Park usage needs to be amended, after which we will develop an agreement to be used for the various organizations and the Borough of Palmyra regarding usage. Mrs. McCann noted opening day for baseball is April 18th, 2020, 9:00 AM., at Legion Field. Mr. Gural stated the bathrooms would be open for that day. Mayor Tait stated she thought last year we

agreed the bathrooms would be open by March 1st, 2020. Mayor Tait stated that soccer season begins the first week on March. Mr. Gural stated we would open the bathrooms during the week only beginning March 1st, 2020, weather permitting.

Mr. Rosenberg indicated he was asked by the governing body to look into the constitutional issues involved with trying to regulate free speech. Mr. Rosenberg stated political speech is one of the most precious forms of speech. Mr. Rosenberg indicated both the State of New Jersey and the United States Supreme Court have limited what governing bodies can restrict in regards to political signage by homeowners and business owners. Mr. Rosenberg indicated the only thing which the governing body can do is limit size and location, where it would interfere with sight of line of traffic. Mr. Allmond inquired if they can go on public property. Mr. Gural indicated our ordinance prohibits them from being on public property. Mr. Gural stated the issue is can they be placed in the public right of way. Mr. Rosenberg indicated yes they can go in the public right of way. There was some additional discussion regarding political sign placement. Mr. Rosenberg noted the right of way is owned by the property owner, but the public has an easement. Mr. Rosenberg indicated he would look into the right of way usage and get back to council at the next meeting.

Mr. Gural stated we received several applications for the posted tax collector position which we will be going thru. Once the field has been narrowed we will notify the admin and finance committee of when interviews are being held and if they would like to join they may.

Mr. Gural indicated the hearing regarding compliance with COAH/Affordable/Fair Share Housing Center is April 16, 2020. Mr. Gural indicated at the hearing there will be discussion regarding the interpretation of our redevelopment plan. Mr. Gural reminded Council that we are supposed to be in full compliance by 2025. Mr. Gural indicated we will know more after April.

Mr. Gural indicated Kelly Grant, Esq., of Malamut & Assoc. LLC is serving in a holdover capacity, as we did not request proposals for that position. Mr. Gural indicated she has been serving in that capacity for quite some time. There was some additional discussion and it was noted it is a lot to bring someone up to speed with the hearing scheduled for April. Council agreed. Mayor Tait noted that perhaps we will request proposals for that position for next year.

Mr. Gural indicated he had spoken with Mr. Villari regarding their in pocket liquor license. Mr. Gural indicated he seemed very motivated to sell the license. Mr. Gural indicated he had put him in touch with Mr. Stock noting that they may wish to purchase the license. Mr. Gural asked if it was possible for a municipality to purchase and hold a liquor license. Mr. Rosenberg indicated he would look into it and report back. Mr. Gural indicated he had additional discussion for closed session.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Gural indicated Aluminum Shapes offered the Borough a free shed. Mr. Gural noted the shed could be used to store salt at Public Works

Mr. Gural indicated the Stormwater Management Permit compliance requires a lot more work. Mr. Gural noted we have to send mailers; he noted the PIA has been speaking with Mrs. Cloud and the Green Team and they are again willing to do their part with the River clean-up. Mr. Gural indicated the Green Team will be coordinating those efforts.

Mr. Gural noted Mr. Kirchner already spoke about the soccer field backstops.

The State is considering temporary changes to the 2020 Primary Election timeline dates, indicating petitions will be due sooner; he noted the Primary Election date would remain the same.

Mr. Gural indicated he had updated the website however if everyone could take a look at the website and let him know if they see anything that is incorrect.

Mr. Gural explained to Council that the same benefit for the employees regarding EAP (employee assistance program /Associates for Life Enhancement benefits, Council is also entitled to.

Mr. Gural indicated the budget meeting is scheduled for March 28th, 2020 at 8:00 am as the intro deadline with the State for Municipal budget is March 30th, 2020.

Mayor Tait reminded all and asked Mr. Gural to make sure the notation was on the website that sump pumps are available for anyone needing to borrow them at no change in public works.

President Howard indicated he had spoken with Mrs. Sykes in regards to scheduling a job fair for the 2020 Census, he indicated the tentative date is Saturday, February 22nd, 2020 from 9:00 AM to 12:00.

President Howard also noted that perhaps when we get to the negotiations for the redevelopment we may want to host a job fair for specific people to do certain jobs.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mrs. Russell thanked everyone for attending and noted she was excited, and the team is enthusiast.

Mrs. McCann had no comment

Dr. Cloud had no comment

Mrs. Jenkins had no comment

Mr. Allmond had no comment.

President Howard had no comment

Mayor Tait thanked everyone for coming out, and indicated we are looking forward to doing some things differently. Mayor Tait encouraged everyone to be open minded to change and be patient. She noted we may try a lot of different things not like them and change it back or change to something else. Mayor Tait encouraged all to get outside during the week as it is supposed to be beautiful.

Resolution 2020-94 Resolution Excluding the Public from Certain Meetings Pursuant To Section 8 of the Open Public Meeting Act C. 231 P. L. 1975 for matters relating to Litigation

Mayor Tait asked if there was any business for executive session. Mr. Gural indicated yes, some personnel, negotiation and litigation matters.

Mayor Tait asked for a motion to approve **Resolution 2020-94**. Mrs. Russell made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-94, Resolution Excluding the Public from Certain Meetings pursuant to section 89 of the Open Public Meeting Act C. 231 P.L. 1975 regarding Litigation. President Howard second the motion.

At the call of the roll, the vote was:

INFAVOR. Mr. Allmond, Dr. Cloud, Mrs. Jenkins, Mrs. McCann, Mrs. Russell, President Howard

AGAINST: None

Motion Carried, Resolution 2020-94 was approved

Borough Council went into closed session at 9:30 PM.

Closed Session

Borough Council returned from closed session at 10:23 PM.

Mrs. Russell made a motion to open to the public. President Howard second the motion.

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion Carried

Mayor Tait asked for a motion to adjourn.

Mrs. Russell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. President Howard second the motion.

All voted in favor of the motion. Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 10:24 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Doretha R Jackson, RMC

Municipal Clerk