

BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES –APRIL 16, 2012

A Regular Meeting of the Borough Council was held in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall on Monday, April 16, 2012. The Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Vahalla. The Invocation given by Councilwoman Rubin was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor advised that adequate notice of this meeting was provided by an annual notice sent to the Home News Tribune and the Star Ledger and filing a copy with the Borough Clerk within seven days following the annual organization meeting of the body.

Present were Councilmembers Wallace, Rubin, Rasmussen, Muldoon, Grayzel and Council President Cammarano.

Also present were Mayor Vahalla, Borough Administrator Boerth, Borough Attorney Murphy and Borough Clerk Harris.

AGENDA SESSION

On a motion by Council President Cammarano, seconded by Councilwoman Rubin, with all in favor the agenda session was opened.

Councilman Grayzel asked to remove Item#14 R2012-97 from the New Business Consent Agenda.

On a motion by Council President Cammarano, seconded by Councilwoman Rasmussen, with all in favor the agenda session was closed.

DISCUSSION-CAPITAL BUDGET POLICE

Chief Robin Rentenberg discussed the Police Department's requested Capital and Operating budget expenditures for 2012. The request included 2 new police SUV vehicles, new firearms, digital cameras for police cars and a rebuilding of the police computer server.

Mayor Vahalla asked Chief Rentenberg what his plans for the department are for the upcoming year.

Chief Rentenberg stated that he would be looking into changing the requirements for the Sergeant's exam, and re-implementing bicycle patrol especially on the Greenway. The Chief also discussed having mile markers placed on the Greenway for easier notification in case emergency services are required. Chief Rentenberg stated that he is attempting to have the Police Department accredited by the New Jersey State Police Association. The organization will come and evaluate the policies and procedures of the Police Department and make recommendations regarding those issues.

DISCUSSION-CAPITAL BUDGET-DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Director Fred Hall discussed the Police departments requested Capital and Operating budget expenditures for 2012. The request included a new packer truck with a tipper, brush chipper, a new radio communication system and work on the pump station on Jersey Avenue.

On a motion by Council President Cammarano, seconded by Councilman Wallace, with all in favor Council disbanded for a brief recess.

On a motion by Council President Cammarano, seconded by Councilwoman Rasmussen, with all in favor Council returned from recess.

PROCLAMATION/RESOLUTIONS HONORING- METUCHEN GIRLS BASKETBALL

WHEREAS, The Metuchen Girls Basketball Team led by Coach Gazda and Assistant Coach Dillon finished their season with a stellar 21 and 7 record; and

WHEREAS, The Lady Bulldogs, for the first time in thirty (30) years, were crowned the Central Jersey Group 1 Champions; and

WHEREAS, Metuchen Girls Basketball Team also had many individual

accomplishments this season such as Senior Jenna Oyler breaking the 1,000 point scoring mark; and

WHEREAS, two Lady Bulldogs, Jenna Oyler and Cassie Smith were named to the All Blue Division where the team compiled an astronomical 12 and 2 winning record; and

WHEREAS, The Lady Bulldogs Coach was also named as the Blue Division Coach of the Year; and

WHEREAS, The Metuchen Girls Basketball Team consists of one (1) freshman, Liane Cifrodelli, two (2) sophomores, Emily Corson and Cassie Smith, two (2) juniors, Jamie Wooding and Ashley Palmieri, and two (2) seniors, Jenna Oyler and Jessica Snyder, sometimes known as the Magnificent 7 along with managers Aarthi Chezian and Crystal Capella;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council, on behalf of the residents of Metuchen, wish to acknowledge and commend the Lady Bulldogs for all their time, dedication and excellence in all that they have achieved.

Dated: April 16, 2012

PROCLAMATION/RESOLUTIONS HONORING-METUCHEN MARCHING BAND

WHEREAS, The Pride of Metuchen Marching Band, led by the Director, John B. Messenger was recognized for its outstanding performances during their regular season; and

WHEREAS, The Pride of Metuchen Marching Band earned the privilege to perform at the Orange Bowl festivities in Court Hialeah, FL; and

WHEREAS, The Pride of Metuchen Marching Band was given the honor of both holding the flag and participating in the pre-game national anthem, along with participating in the rehearsals and performance of a mass band half-time show featuring the rock band Train; and

WHEREAS, The Pride of Metuchen Marching Band competed in the Annual Orange Bowl Parade and Competition with bands from all over the United States; and

WHEREAS, The Pride of Metuchen Marching Band was crowned Class A Champions with a Superior Rating at the Orange Bowl Competition, outperforming 12 other bands; and

WHEREAS, The Pride of Metuchen also received additional awards for Outstanding Music, Outstanding Marching, Outstanding Percussion, Outstanding General Effect and Outstanding Drum Major;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council, on behalf of the residents of Metuchen, wish to acknowledge and commend The Pride of Metuchen Marching Band and its director and staff for their time, dedication and excellence in all that they have achieved.

Dated: April 16, 2012

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Council President Cammarano, seconded by Councilwoman Rasmussen, with all in favor except Councilman Muldoon who abstained, the Council minutes of November 21, 2011 and December 5, 2011 were approved.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION-CAPITAL BUDGET-

On consensus of Council, Borough Administer Boerth has been directed to pave all of Liberty Street with the additional \$100,000.00 provided by the Borough to the grant monies received from the Department of Transportation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Vahalla open the meeting for public comment.

Elliot Jarmin (20 Rose Street) stated his concerns regarding the opening of the Greenway and the additional traffic it causes. He would like to see if a lighted crosswalk could be placed at the crosswalk for Rose Street and Essex Avenue.

Mayor Vahalla stated that it would first be addressed with the Traffic and Transportation Committee. Mayor Vahalla directed Councilman Wallace to address this issue with both the Traffic and Transportation Committee and also have the Traffic Officer and the Chief of Police

review the intersection and comment on the effectiveness of having a lighted crosswalk placed at that location. Mayor Vahalla also stated that in the meantime the Department of Public Works will be directed to repaint the existing crosswalk lines.

Councilwoman Rasmussen asked if signage stating that children are crossing could be placed on Rose Street.

Hearing no one else wishing to speak the Mayor closed the meeting to public comment.

COMMUNICATIONS AGENDA

On a motion by Council President Cammarano, seconded by Councilwoman Rasmussen, with all in favor the Communication Consent Agenda items numbered 7-12 were approved.

7. Receive and Approve Request for New Hope Baptist Church 89th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday June 23, 2012 from 10am-4pm. (Close Part of Hampton Street)
8. Receive and Accept Development Commission Minutes for February 1, 2012 Meeting.
9. Receive and Accept Zoning Board Minutes for July 14, 2011 Meeting.
10. Receive and Accept TV and Technology Advisory Committee Minutes for February 22, 2012 Meeting.
11. Receive and Accept Parking Authority Minutes for January 17, 2012 Meeting.
12. Receive and Approve Metuchen Little League Picnic on Saturday June 16, 2012 (Raindate Sunday June 17, 2012) (Road Closure)

COUNCIL REPORTS

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION

Councilman Wallace stated that at the last Traffic and Transportation Committee meeting a resident had expressed their concerns on the increased traffic at the corners of Rose Street and Essex Avenue due to the new Greenway entrance.

Councilman Wallace stated that the Greenway entrances located at Rose Street and Green Street should have been constructed with ADA required ramps and they will be constructed by the Department of Transportation.

MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE

Councilwoman Rasmussen stated that the Town Talks meeting discussing underage drinking will be held on April 16th at 7pm in the Metuchen High School Cafeteria. Also, a Magic Show is being held on April 20th at 7pm at Campbell School. Councilwoman Rasmussen also stated that on April 28th the Police Department will be having an event where old prescription medication can be disposed of correctly.

SHADE TREE

Councilwoman Rasmussen stated that Arbor Day is being celebrated on April 20th at Campbell School where 2 new trees will be planted. Councilwoman Rasmussen also stated that the Shade Tree Commission would like to assess the progress of the new trees that have been planted throughout the Borough and to update the tree inventory over the next few weeks. The Shade Tree Commission also discussed the possibility of instituting a procedure for residents that wish to have trees removed via a permit issued by the Borough.

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION

Councilman Muldoon stated that the Historical Preservation Committee is planning its second annual scavenger hunt. The hunt will begin May 1st and run through the end of the month of May. Prizes will be awarded for 5 (five) different categories. Councilman Muldoon also stated that the Parking Authority will be holding a public meeting on April 17 at the Senior Center regarding the potential development of the Pearl Street Lot.

REPORT OF BOROUGH ATTORNEY

Borough Attorney Murphy had no report.

REPORT OF BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR

Borough Administrator Boerth had no report.

REPORT OF MAYOR

Mayor Vahalla stated that he hand delivered a proclamation to Ms. Mattie Gibson on her 105th birthday. Mayor Vahalla also stated that the Metuchen Little League Parade was a success with

both new and old traditions being carried out. Mayor Vahalla reported that the Fire Department in the month of March responded to 23 alarms, 96 hours of fire alarms and emergencies, 146 hours of drills and training and the cadets provide 75 volunteer hours.

NEW BUSINESS/CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

On a motion by Council President Cammarano, seconded by Councilwoman Rasmussen, with all in favor the New Business Agenda items numbered 13, 15 and 16, Resolution 2012-96, 98 and 99 were approved.

RESOLUTION NO 2012-96

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING LIEN REDEMPTIONS-B132 LOT36 AND B132 LOT 39-92 ESSEX AVENUE

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector received the necessary amount to redeem the following Tax Sale Certificates on the following properties:

<u>Cert #</u>	<u>Block/Lot</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Lienholder</u>
11-00009	132/36	Essex Ave	Halina Malinowski
11-00010	132/39	92 Essex Ave	Halina Malinowski

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Tax Collector be authorized to cancel these liens from the municipal records.

Dated: April 16, 2012

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-98

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING UNPAID LEAVE OF ABSENCE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Metuchen do hereby grant a ninety day unpaid leave of absence for Patrolman Joseph Ernest from the Metuchen Police Department commencing March 30, 2012.

Dated: April 16, 2012

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-99

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING GRANT APPLICATION FOR MOBILE MESSAGE BOARD-OEM

WHEREAS, the Borough of Metuchen desires to participate in a grant program by submitting an application to the Department of Law and Public Safety for the FY2010 FY2011 Emergency Management Grant,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Metuchen, County of Middlesex, that:

- 1) The Borough of Metuchen is hereby authorized to participate in the FY2010 FY2011 Emergency Management Grant; and
- 2) The Office of Emergency Management Director, James Graziano, be and is hereby designated to serve as the coordinator of the Program on behalf of the Borough of Metuchen in cooperation with the Department of Law and Public Safety .

Dated: April 16, 2012

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Council President Cammarano, seconded by Councilwoman Rasmussen, with all in favor Resolution 2012-97 was approved.

RESOLUTION NO.2012-97

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL OF A PORTION OF THE BOROUGH'S \$6,259,225 BOND ANTICIPATION NOTES, SERIES 2011A DATED MAY 25, 2011, AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER DETAILS OF SAID ISSUE.

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Metuchen, County of Middlesex, New Jersey (the "Borough") has heretofore issued its Bond Anticipation Notes, Series 2011A dated May 25, 2011 in the aggregate principal amount of \$6,259,225 (the "Prior Notes"); and

WHEREAS, the Prior Notes mature on May 24, 2012 and it is desirable to renew the portion of the Prior Notes permitted by and pursuant to the Local Bond Law, constituting Chapter 2 of Title 40A of the Revised Statutes of New Jersey (the "Local Bond Law"); and

WHEREAS, the Borough intends that the portion of the Prior Notes to be renewed will be treated as "Qualified Tax-exempt Obligations" within the meaning of Section 265(b)(3)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF METUCHEN, in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey as follows:

SECTION 1. That the Prior Notes shall be renewed as one issue and shall be in such denomination or denominations, shall bear such number or numbers, such date or dates of issue and maturity, and such rate or rates of interest, as may be determined in the manner and in accordance with the applicable provisions of the Local Bond Law. The Prior Notes shall upon renewal be entitled "Bond Anticipation Notes, Series 2012A" (the "Notes").

SECTION 2. That all of the Notes shall be signed by the manual or facsimile signatures of the Mayor of the Borough and the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough and the corporate seal of the Borough shall be affixed thereto, attested by the manual signature of the Clerk of the Borough, and shall be payable, both as to principal and interest, to the purchaser thereof, and shall be in substantially the form as attached hereto as Exhibit A and made a part hereof.

SECTION 3. That the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough be and she hereby is authorized and directed to determine all matters in connection with the Notes not determined by this or a subsequent resolution and her signature upon the Notes shall be conclusive as to such determinations.

SECTION 4. That the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough be and she hereby is authorized to take all actions necessary to sell the Notes at public or private sale in such amount as she may determine at not less than par and to deliver the same to the purchasers thereof upon receipt of payment of the purchase price plus accrued interest from their date to the date of delivery thereof and payment therefor.

SECTION 5. That any instrument issued pursuant to this resolution shall be a general obligation of the Borough, and the Borough's full faith and credit are hereby pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and interest on said obligations and, unless otherwise paid or payment provided for, an amount sufficient for such payment shall be inserted in the budget and a tax sufficient to provide for the payment thereof shall be levied and collected.

SECTION 6. That the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough be and she hereby is authorized and directed to report in writing to the Borough Council at the meeting next succeeding the date when any sale or delivery of the Notes pursuant to this resolution is made, such report to include the principal amount, description, interest rate and maturity of the Notes sold, the price obtained and the name of the purchaser.

SECTION 7. That the Notes will be "deemed designated" for purposes of Section 265(b)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code") (relating to an exception to the disallowance of interest expense of certain financial institutions allocable to tax-exempt interest). The Chief Financial Officer of the Borough is hereby authorized and directed to satisfy any reporting requirements made necessary by any Federal rules and regulations with respect to such deemed designation of the Notes.

SECTION 8. That the Mayor of the Borough, the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough and the Clerk of the Borough are hereby authorized to execute all documents necessary for the sale and delivery of the Notes.

SECTION 9. That the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough be and she hereby is directed to pay the portion of the Prior Notes requirement to be paid by the Local Bond Law in the amount of \$263,900 from the General Improvement Fund and \$10,400 from the Pool Utility Fund.

SECTION 10. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

BILL LIST

On a motion by Council President Cammarano, seconded by Councilwoman Rasmussen, with all in favor the bill resolution in the amount of **\$234,940.62** was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Vahalla opened the meeting to public comment on any items on the agenda.

Hearing no one wishing to speak Mayor Vahalla closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Council President Cammarano, seconded by Councilman Wallace, with all in favor the meeting was adjourned at 9:05p.m..

Respectfully Submitted:

Kathryn Harris
Municipal Clerk