

BOROUGH COUNCIL
MINUTES -FEBRUARY 21, 2012

A Regular Meeting of the Borough Council was held in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall on Tuesday, February 21, 2012. The Meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Vahalla. The Invocation given by Council President Cammarano 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 Grayzel, Lease, Rubin, Rasmussen, Wallace 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 Rasmussen with all in favor the agenda session was opened.

Council President Cammarano stated that the CAP Ordinance on the agenda for introduction tonight will be removed for revisions.

Council President Cammarano is removing resolution R2012-63 and R2012-70 from the Consent Agenda and is adding a discussion on the new recycling plan.

DISCUSSION-SINGLE STREAM RECYCLING

Mayor Vahalla stated that the new recycling program will begin on March 7, 2012.

Councilman Muldoon stated that there were some revision made to the recycling schedule.

Councilman Muldoon stated that he would like to have the start date moved to April 2nd so that there is more time to inform the residents of all of the new changes to the recycling process.

Councilman Muldoon would also like to have a public service announcement run on MeTV frequently to help get the new recycling procedures out to the public.

Council President Cammarano stated that he was not aware that the new schedule and procedures will not be published twice in the Criterion prior to the projects launch date.

Councilwoman Rubin stated that the information about the recycling program procedures needs to be extended to all medias including newspaper, electronic mail and paper copy.

Council President Cammarano suggested having a notice sent home through the public schools.

Councilman Grayzel asked what would happen if someone confused their recycling day and did not get their recycling picked up.

Borough Administrator Boerth stated that the Borough is prepared to accommodate the residents during the transition period of this program.

Councilwoman Rasmussen stated that someone should speak to the senior citizens prior to the launch of the new program.

Mayor Vahalla stated that the notices should be placed at the Senior Citizens building and the Library to help aid in the dissemination of the new procedures.

Councilwoman Rubin asked what the cost would be to do a mailing to all of the residents of Metuchen.

Mayor Vahalla stated that the Council would like to delay the start of the recycling program to April 2nd so that information could be sent out via mail with a revised flyer and map, published in the Criterion, Direct 911 calls, METV Public Announcements and distribution of the flyer through the school district.

DISCUSSION-CAP BANK ORDINANCE

Borough Administrator Boerth discussed what a CAP Ordinance allows the Borough to do.

Councilman Grayzel stated that he would like the Borough to create a Finance Committee to help the Borough personnel with issues such as the budget.

Mayor Vahalla stated that he would like to see an in-depth breakdown of the duties and authority of the committee.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Council President Cammarano, seconded by Councilwoman Rubin, with all in favor the October 3, 2011 Council Minutes were approved.

OPEN TO PUBLIC

Mayor Vahalla opened the meeting to the public for comment.

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

COMMUNICATIONS CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Council President Cammarano, seconded by Councilwoman Rubin, with all in favor the Communications Consent Agenda items number 4-8 were approved.

COUNCIL REPORTS

Council President Cammarano stated the new daytime EMS services agreement with JFK is going well.

Council President Cammarano stated the Citizens Academy will begin March 5th.

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION

Councilman Wallace discussed the openings to the newly opened Greenway.

RECREATION

Councilman Wallace stated that the Recreation Commission was meeting upstairs during the Council meeting so he was unable to attend.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Councilwoman Rubin stated that the Chamber of Commerce's upcoming list of events was just approved on the Communications Consent Agenda.

SHADE TREE

Councilwoman Rasmussen stated that the Shade Tree Commission planted 61 trees this Spring.

MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE/YOUTH SERVICE

Councilwoman Rasmussen stated that the Youth Service Board's survey is still on the website and she urged residents to complete the survey if they have not all ready done so.

Councilwoman Rasmussen also stated that the Board is doing a fundraiser called Planting Seeds For A Drug Free Community. Additional information is posted on the Borough website.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Councilwoman Rasmussen stated that Mr. Scott Gallagher from Metuchen High School asked if the Garden Club could perform a community service by cleaning the Greenway.

SHADE TREE

Councilwoman Rasmussen spoke about getting the Tree Donation Program information out to the public. The information will possibly be disseminated through Metuchen's Facebook Page, Metuchen Messenger and the Criterion. Councilwoman Rasmussen also stated that the Shade Tree Commission would like to have its own email account for people interested in donating a tree.

Councilwoman Rasmussen stated that the Spring planting will include the planting of 42 trees.

POOL

Councilman Muldoon stated that the Pool Commission will meet this Thursday, February 23rd at 7pm. The Commission is working on preparing for their opening this season.

PARKING AUTHORITY

Councilman Muldoon stated that the Parking Authority will also be meeting this Thursday, February 23. The Parking Authority has a presentation scheduled. Mr. Jeff Otto from Otto Evaluations will be discussing an analysis his company has done on the Central Jersey residential and commercial market rates.

REPORT OF BOROUGH ATTORNEY

Borough Attorney Murphy had no report.

REPORT OF BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR

Borough Administrator Boerth had no report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Vahalla stated that the Fire Department responded to 31 alarms, 223 hours of fire alarms and emergencies, 112 hours of drills, trainings and meetings as well as the cadets and advisors volunteering 17 hours.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Council President Cammarano, seconded by Councilwoman Rubin, with all in favor the New Business Consent Agenda items numbered 9-14, encompassing resolutions R2012-64 through R2012-69 were approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-64

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE "CLICK IT OR TICKET" SEABELT ENFORCEMENT GRANT

WHEREAS, the Borough of Metuchen desires to participate in a grant program by submitting an application to the New Jersey Department of Highway Traffic Safety for the **Click It Or Ticket-** Seatbelt Enforcement 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 **Click It Or Ticket-** Seatbelt Enforcement Grant; and
- 2) The Chief of Police be and is hereby designated to serve as the coordinator of the Program on behalf of the Borough of Metuchen in cooperation with the Office of Highway Safety.

Dated: February 21, 2012

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-65

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION AND ACCEPTANCE OF YOUTH SERVICE BOARD/MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE AGREEMENT FOR 2012 TO MIDDLESEX COUNTY (DEDR)

WHEREAS, the Borough of Metuchen, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has applied for funding to the Governor's Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse through the County of Middlesex

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Metuchen as follows:

- 1) The Borough of Metuchen does hereby authorize submission of an application and acceptance of monies for the Metuchen Municipal Alliance grant for calendar year 2012 in the amount of **\$13, 257.00** ; and
- 2) The Borough of Metuchen acknowledges the terms and conditions for the administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

Dated: February 21, 2012

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-66
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION TO MIDDLESEX COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE PROGRAM BY THE METUCHEN YOUTH SERVICE BOARD FOR MINI GRANT

WHEREAS, the Borough of Metuchen, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey recognizes that the abuse of alcohol and drugs is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent such abuses in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council has applied for funding to the Department of Human Services Municipal Alliance Program through the County of Middlesex

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Metuchen as follows:

- 1) The Borough of Metuchen does hereby authorize submission of an application for contract to be in effect from April 1, 2012 in the amount of **\$12, 500.00** ; and
- 2) The Borough of Metuchen acknowledges the terms and conditions for the administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

Dated: February 21, 2012

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-67

WHEREAS, bids were received by the Borough Administrator on February 15, 2012 for the **Fire Apparatus Service And Repair** for the Borough of Metuchen; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Officer has determined that sufficient funds will be available in the amount of \$22, 250.00 as evidenced by the Finance Officer's certification,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough Council of the Borough of Metuchen, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey that the contract for **Fire Apparatus Service And Repair** be and the same is hereby awarded to Fire and Safety Services, 200 Ryan Street, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 .

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and the Borough Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute the contract for the same.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the certified check or bid bond of the successful bidder

1. Fire and Safety Services, 200 Ryan Street, South Plainfield, NJ 07080

be returned upon the receipt of a fully executed contract and other required documents.

Dated: February 21, 2012

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-68
**RESOLUTION REFUNDING ZONING PERMIT
APPLICATION FEE TO SHAHEN UDUGAMPOLA**

WHEREAS, Shahen Udugampola submitted a \$50.00 zoning permit fee for a home occupation permit; and

WHEREAS, the Zoning Officer has determined that the zoning permit application fee was collected in error; and

WHEREAS, the Zoning Officer has requested that the zoning permit application fee be refunded to Shahen Udugampola,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Shahen Udugampola be refunded \$50.00 from anticipated revenues.

Dated: February 21, 2012

RESOLUTION 2012-69
**RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 2012-10 CHANGING THE DATE OF
THE DECEMBER 5, 2012 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF THE BOROUGH OF
METUCHEN TO DECEMBER 3, 2012, THE DECEMBER 19, 2012 MEETING TO
DECEMBER 17, 2012, AND CANCEL THE SEPTEMBER 18, 2012 REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING**

WHEREAS, at the Organization Meeting on January 3, 2012 the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Metuchen passed Resolution No. 2011-10, setting forth the regular scheduled meetings of the Borough Council of Metuchen for 2012; and

WHEREAS, due to a scheduling oversight, the Mayor and Borough Council must revise the schedule of the regular Council meetings changing the December 5, 2012 meeting to December 3, 2012; and

WHEREAS, due to a scheduling oversight, the Mayor and Borough Council must revise the schedule of the regular Council meetings changing the December 19, 2012 meeting to December 17, 2012; and

WHEREAS, due to a religious holiday, the Mayor and Borough Council deem it in the best interest of the Borough of Metuchen to revise the schedule of the regular Council meetings cancelling the September 18, 2012 meeting.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough Council meeting scheduled for December 5, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. is hereby changed to December 3, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Borough Council meeting scheduled for December 19, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. is hereby changed to December 17, 2012 at 7:30 p.m.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Borough Council meeting scheduled for September 18, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. is hereby cancelled; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Metuchen that based upon the within Resolution, the following revised meeting schedule for the year 2012 for the Mayor and Council meetings is hereby established:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all regular meeting will commence at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Borough Hall, 500 Main Street, Metuchen, New Jersey 08840.

January 17 (Tuesday) Martin Luther King Day

February 6

February 21 (Tuesday) Presidents Day

March 5

March 19

April 2
 April 16
 May 7
 May 21
 June 4
 June 18
 July 2
 July 16
 August 6
 August 20
 September 4 (Tuesday) Labor Day
 October 1
 October 15
 November 5
 November 19
 December 3
 December 17
 Dated: February 21, 2012

Councilwoman Rubin asked if there was time for suggestions for the Senior Citizens as to where handicapped curb cuts were necessary.

Borough Administrator Boerth stated that any recommendations would be accepted for consideration.

On a motion by Council President Cammarano, seconded by Councilwoman Rubin, with all in favor the resolution R2012-70 was approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-70

WHEREAS, the Metuchen Community Development Advisory Committee met and made a recommendation for the use of the 2012-2013 Community Development Block grants funds to provide for the salaries of the Senior Citizen shuttle bus drivers, Senior Citizen programs and sidewalk and handicap ramp improvements in the Borough of Metuchen,

WHEREAS, the needs identified by the Metuchen Community Development Advisory Committee concerning the above referenced improvements are applicable to the southeast quadrant and for handicapped improvements,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Metuchen that on the basis of input from the Metuchen Community Development Advisory Committee and the input from the public hearing, the Borough Administrator is hereby authorized to prepare an application to be submitted for the utilization of the 2012-2013 Community Development Block Grant to provide for the salaries Senior Citizen shuttle bus drivers, Senior Citizen programs and sidewalk and handicap ramp improvements in the designated target areas in the Borough of Metuchen.

Dated: February 21, 2012

Borough Administrator Boerth explained the temporary budget resolution and why it is amended continually until the permanent budget is adopted.

On a motion by Council President Cammarano, seconded by Councilwoman Rubin, with all in favor the resolution R2012-63 was approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 2012-63

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE TEMPORARY BUDGET

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-19 of the Local Budget Act provides that temporary appropriations shall be made for the purposes and amounts required in the manner and time therein provided;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following additional temporary emergency appropriations shall be made for the year 2012, effective February 21, 2012:

Financial Administration	OE	10,000.00
Legal	OE	5,000.00
Group Health Insurance		200,000.00

Emergency Management	OE	2,000.00
Fire Department	OE	22,500.00
Public Works Administrative	OE	2,000.00
Streets & Roads	OE	10,000.00
County Health Services	OE	36,025.68
Utilities		40,000.00
Bond Principal		145,000.00
Bond Interest		300,000.00
	TOTAL	772,525.68

Dated: February 21, 2012

BILL LIST

On a motion by Council President Cammarano, seconded by Councilwoman Rubin, with all in favor the bill resolution in the amount of **\$1,036,819.61** 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 Councilwoman Rasmussen, with all in favor the meeting was adjourned at 8:37pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Kathryn Harris
Municipal Clerk