

The **January 11, 2016** meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Spring Lake Heights, Monmouth County, New Jersey was called to order by Mayor Thomas O'Brien at 7:00p.m. in the Frank E. Adams Municipal Building.

Present:

Councilman Christopher Campion
Councilwoman Sara King
Councilman Robert Merriken
Councilman James Shuler
Councilman Thomas Vorbach
Mayor Thomas O'Brien

Absent: None

Also Attending:

Janine Gillis, Borough Clerk
Joseph J. Delaney, Jr., Administrator
Gary McLean, Esq., Borough Attorney

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Resolution No. R2016-25

Borough Clerk, Janine Gillis pointed out that a correction is needed on the agenda, the Executive Session agenda includes an item listed as Personnel: Police, it should be Personnel: Administration/Finance

▪ **R2016-25**, Authorizing an Executive Session

Contract Negotiation: Public Works Director - Land Acquisition - Personnel: Administration/Finance

On a motion by Mrs. King, seconded by Mr. Shuler, Resolution R2016-25 was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Campion, Mrs. King, Mr. Merriken, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Vorbach

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

8:00 p.m.-PUBLIC SESSION:

CALL TO ORDER ▪ SILENT REFLECTION ▪ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present:

Councilman Christopher Campion
Councilwoman Sara King
Councilman Robert Merriken
Councilman James Shuler
Councilman Thomas Vorbach
Mayor Thomas O'Brien

Absent: None

Also Attending:

Janine Gillis, Borough Clerk
Joseph J. Delaney, Jr., Administrator
Gary McLean, Esq., Borough Attorney

OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The Mayor reported the meeting was being conducted pursuant to the requirements of the N.J. Open Public Meetings Act with notice included in the annual notice of meetings sent to the Coast Star and Asbury Park Press; posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building and on the Borough website.

APPROVE AGENDA

Mayor O'Brien asked for a motion to approve the agenda with the correction pointed out by Janine Gillis; Executive session agenda should be Personnel-Administration/Finance and the addition of Resolution R2016-36, confirming appointment of Catherine Francolino as Administrative Assistant.

On a motion by Mrs. King, seconded by Mr. Shuler, the agenda was approved as amended, by the following vote:

Ayes: Mrs. King, Mr. Campion, Mr. Merriken, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Vorbach

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

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APPROVE MINUTES – Executive & Regular sessions of December 14, 2015

Borough Clerk, Janine Gillis noted a revision was needed on the Executive Session minutes to reflect that Mayor Maccanico called the Executive Session to order on December 14, 2015.

On a motion by Mr. Vorbach, seconded by Mr. Shuler, the minutes of December 14, 2015 were approved, as amended, by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Campion, Mrs. King, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Vorbach
Nays: None Abstain: Mr. Merriken Absent: None

PRESENTATIONS – Mayor O'Brien submitted a letter prepared by Eileen Eilenberger which indicated 3 names to be considered to fill the council member seat vacated by Mayor O'Brien. The letter indicated: Nate Novak, Arthur Herner and Sandy Dennison.

Mrs. King asked if a bio of Ms. Dennison could be supplied, Mayor O'Brien stated yes. He commented that she was a PTA President.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS - None

PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda items only)

- John Tangeman 564 Atlantic Avenue, inquired if Mayor and Council will discuss the opt out availability with the new assessment program. On the agenda there are copies of resolutions adopted by other municipalities. Mayor O'Brien replied that the council will be addressing that at a future meeting.

Mr. Delaney reminded all that the Borough has a contract through 2016 but does have the option to opt out for 2017.

- Marilyn Placitella 30 Spruce Lane stated that she purchased her home 2 years ago and has had 2 tax increases, she is glad to hear that Mayor and Council are considering to opt out. She asked how that helps now, Mayor O'Brien answered that all residents have the option to appeal their assessment. She asked if the Tax Assessor could meet with the residents. She stated that her home has not been inspected, yet she has been increased. Mayor O'Brien informed her that each year 20% of homes would be inspected but that the assessor also looks at comparable sales. She stated that other homes similar to hers have not been raised. Mr. Campion added that the council's hands are tied and not able to change the tax assessor's findings.

Mr. Delaney announced that the deadline for filing an appeal is fast approaching; it's January 15th and the filing is with the County Tax Board.

- Beth Bernardo 610 Monmouth Avenue has had an increase of \$100,000, she stated that she has an easement on her property, she feels that this is not a fair assessment. She thought that it was a good idea to have the assessor come to a meeting. She added that the homes on her street have been taken care of with new homes built. Ms. Bernardo stated that she did file an appeal; her assessment went down but then went back up the following year. She stated that filing the appeal is costly having to employ an appraiser and then they need to make an appearance at the hearing.

Mr. Campion asked if the opt out discussion could be on the agenda of the next meeting, Mayor O'Brien agreed.

The public comment period was closed on a motion by Mrs. King and seconded by Mr. Shuler without objection.

DISCUSSION ITEMS - None

MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman Campion – reported that the budget process has started.

Councilman Vorbach – no report

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Councilwoman King – read a thank you note from Annette Wishbow 46 Maple Drive thanking Officer Shafer for his kindness, care and professionalism on a recent emergency call.

Councilman Shuler – no report

Councilman Merriken – no report

REPORTS, NOTICES & CORRESPONDENCE

- Monthly Police Department Report – November 2015
- Monthly Court Revenue Report - December 2015
- Resolution #15-202, Township of Millstone opting out of Monmouth County Assessment Program
- Resolution #2015-78, Borough of Shrewsbury opting out of Monmouth County Assessment Program
- Resolution 15-1245, Township of Wall opting out of Monmouth County Assessment Program
- Invitation to attend seminar on January 13, 2016 regarding Monmouth County Assessment Program
- Resolution # R-16-007 from Tinton Falls Condemning Acts of Terrorism in the US and Abroad
- Letter from South Monmouth Regional Sewerage Authority, Connection Fee – Public Hearing
- New Jersey Water Supply Authority Public Hearing for revisions to rate schedules
- Letter from Board of Chosen Freeholders-Monmouth County - Re: donation of vehicles

Mr. Delaney stated that he would be attending a seminar on the assessment program, which is entitled “Where Do We Go From Here” on Wednesday, January 13, 2016. He opened the invitation to council members.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS - None

RESOLUTIONS

- **R2016-18**, Adopting a Cash Management Plan for the year 2016

On a motion by Mr. Campion, seconded by Mrs. King, Resolution R2016-18 was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Campion, Mrs. King, Mr. Merriken, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Vorbach

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

- **R2016-26**, Amending the meeting schedule for 2016

On a motion by Mrs. King, seconded by Mr. Merriken, Resolution R2016-26 was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Campion, Mrs. King, Mr. Merriken, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Vorbach

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

- **R2016-27**, Appointing a Representative to Shore Community Alliance, Eileen Eilenberger

On a motion by Mr. Vorbach, seconded by Mr. Shuler, Resolution R2016-27 was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Campion, Mrs. King, Mr. Merriken, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Vorbach

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

- **R2016-28**, Approving the Shore Municipal Alliance Grant for 2017

On a motion by Mr. Vorbach, seconded by Mrs. King, Resolution R2016-28 was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Campion, Mrs. King, Mr. Merriken, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Vorbach

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

- **R2016-29**, Authorizing a Shared Service Agreement with County of Monmouth for Special Citizens Area Transportation(SCAT)

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On a motion by Mr. Vorbach, seconded by Mrs. King, Resolution R2016-29 was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Champion, Mrs. King, Mr. Merriken, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Vorbach
Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

- **R2016-30**, Authorizing execution of Sub-Grant Agreement with the NJ Office of Emergency Management pursuant to the Hazard Mitigation Grant

Mr. Champion read a portion detailing the amount of the grant which is \$650,000 coming to the Borough
On a motion by Mr. Champion, seconded by Mr. Vorbach, Resolution R2016-30 was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Champion, Mrs. King, Mr. Merriken, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Vorbach
Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

- **R2016-31**, Authorizing a partial release of a designated Developer Performance Guarantee
- On a motion by Mrs. King, seconded by Mr. Shuler, Resolution R2016-31 was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Champion, Mrs. King, Mr. Merriken, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Vorbach
Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

- **R2016-32**, Authorizing release of a designated Developer Performance Guarantee
- On a motion by Mrs. King, seconded by Mr. Merriken, Resolution R2016-32 was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Champion, Mrs. King, Mr. Merriken, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Vorbach
Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

- **R2016-33**, Approving use of the Community Center
- On a motion by Mr. Vorbach, seconded by Mr. Merriken, Resolution R2016-33 was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Champion, Mrs. King, Mr. Merriken, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Vorbach
Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

- **R2016-34**, Approving the placement of a donation box in the Municipal Building
- On a motion by Mrs. King, seconded by Mr. Vorbach, Resolution R2016-34 was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Champion, Mrs. King, Mr. Merriken, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Vorbach
Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

- **R2016-35**, Approving payment of itemized claims on the January 8, 2016 Bill List.
- On a motion by Mr. Shuler, seconded by Mrs. King, Resolution R2016-35 was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Champion, Mrs. King, Mr. Merriken, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Vorbach
Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

- **R2016-36**, Confirming appointment of Catherine Francolino as office assistant
- Mayor O'Brien announced that Mrs. Francolino is presently a part time employee and now she will be appointed full time.

On a motion by Mrs. King, seconded by Mr. Shuler, Resolution R2016-36 was approved by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Champion, Mrs. King, Mr. Merriken, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Vorbach
Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

PUBLIC COMMENT (Any item)

Kara Matunas 812 Central Avenue asked if Mayor and Council had received a letter from her and why it was not listed on the agenda. Mayor O'Brien stated that as a personnel issue it would not be discussed publicly. Mrs. Matunas stated that in her opinion it was a public safety issue. She said that as a parent of an autistic child she feels it is a safety matter. She added that prior to the meeting Mr. Delaney told her that the letter

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would not be entertained at the meeting. Mr. Delaney defended his comments; stating that he was preparing a written response to her letter and that council would not provide public comment on a personnel matter. Mrs. Matunas stated she offered a free training for the area police departments. Several area Police Chiefs and Patrolman were in attendance and she felt that there was a lack of response from Chief Petriken. She added that 3 Spring Lake Heights police officers volunteered and attended on their own time. She asked how council would deal with this; Attorney McLean addressed Mrs. Matunas and stated that council would review it as a personnel matter and that any inquiries should be referred to Mr. Delaney.

Beth Bernardo 610 Monmouth Avenue stated that she is an advocate for children and that this type of training is important. She would always be available for any type of search for children.

Mr. Delaney reported that our police officers have had the mandated training. He added that a new program is forthcoming from the Prosecutors Office and the Monmouth County Chiefs Association which will provide additional training in this area.

Mrs. Matunas added it would have been a free refresher for our officers. A new tool that is available when searching for children is having a bio on the missing child; which would include their likes and dislikes, having that information would be extremely helpful.

Mr. Campion offered that as the new Emergency Management Coordinator, the training would be helpful to that committee as well as the First Aid personnel as well. He suggested that they coordinate the training and could possibly open it to other communities as well. Mrs. Matunas agreed and thanked Mr. Campion.

Michael Placitella 30 Spruce Lane asked the number of assessment have gone up vs what has gone down. Mr. Campion answered that he didn't have exact numbers but that he and Mr. Delaney had previously done random comparisons and that most had actually gone down but of course we don't hear from those residents. Mr. Campion added that increase in taxes isn't necessarily due to the municipality, it includes county and school tax increases.

The voice of the public was closed on a motion by Mrs. King and seconded by Mr. Shuler without objection.

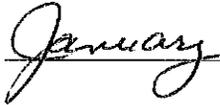
Mr. Campion asked to speak about a resolution that was approved on the agenda. A student at our school is collecting jeans which are then donated to homeless teens; he asked if you could contribute please do so.

Mr. Vorbach pointed out that in our audience are 2 students from Communication High School working on journalism projects that are Spring Lake Heights residents; Ebby Shim and Jonathan Slovak.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on a motion by Mr. Campion, seconded by Mr. Vorbach, the meeting was adjourned without objection at 8:42 p.m.


Janine Gillis, Borough Clerk

Approved:  January 25, 2016