

The **December 14, 2015** meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of Spring Lake Heights, Monmouth County, New Jersey, was called to order by Mayor Gavino Maccanico at **7:00 p.m.** in the Frank E. Adams Municipal Building.

Present:

Councilman Christopher Campion

Councilwoman Sara King
Councilman Thomas O'Brien
Councilman James Shuler
Councilman Tienken
Councilman Thomas Vorbach
Mayor Gavino Maccanico

Absent: None

Also Attending:

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Resolution No. R2015-173

Contract Negotiation: Public Works, Personnel: Police

The Clerk read the resolution into the record.

On a motion by Mrs. King, seconded by Mr. Shuler, the resolution was adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Campion, Mrs. King, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Tienken, 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 Thomas O'Brien
Councilman James Shuler
Councilman Tienken
Councilman Thomas Vorbach
Mayor Gavino Maccanico

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 Maccanico requested to amend the agenda adding Resolution 2015-180, appointing a Sergeant in the Police Dept. and Resolution 2015-181, approving Change Order No. 1 (FINAL) for the 2015 Tree Preservation project decreasing the contract with High Tech Landscapes, Inc. by \$3,000.00 to a revised contract amount of \$64,500.00 and authorizing final payment.

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

Ayes: Mr. Campion, Mrs. King, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Tienken, Mr. Vorbach

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

APPROVE MINUTES - Executive & Regular Minutes – November 23, 2015

On a motion by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Shuler, the Executive & Regular session minutes of November 23, 2015 were approved, by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Campion, Mrs. King, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Shuler

Nays: None Abstain: Mr. Vorbach, Mr. Tienken Absent: None

PRESENTATIONS

- Charles Latini Jr., President of the New Jersey Chapter of the American Planning Association

Mr. Latini introduced himself and gave his background as a Land Use Planner; he presently is the President of the NJ Chapter of the American Planning Association, which is made up of volunteers. He added that Ms. Crippen had contacted them a few years ago about an issue in town which they could not help but explained their Community Planning Assistance Program and the possibility of Spring Lake Heights utilizing their services. In reviewing our Master Plan, he noted that re-exams are being done but like other towns the plan is somewhat outdated. The volunteers would work with the Borough Council, Borough's professionals, Planning Board and environmental commission. Their assistance would include a review of the Boroughs Master Plan, make recommendations, including updates which are required by statute, as well as detail that are recommended but not mandatory. They would work together to develop a RFP for what they find in the process that are necessary to invest in. The experts that would assist would have experience with shore towns and towns with highways. He added that the Master Plan is an essential document.

Mayor Maccanico although he's hearing volunteers, everyone will ask about cost. Mr. Latini replied that it depends on the towns resources, requests are made for reimbursement for copies, their costs are minimal, if changes are recommended than the Borough could use their own professionals or go out to bid. Mrs. King stated that our Master Plan is not due for renewal until 2018; Mr. Latini replied that by statute it must be done every 10 years but could be reviewed sooner. Mrs. King asked how long the process would take. Mr. Latini stated it varies from a couple of months to a year. Mr. Latini also added that the process could involve the community which would add time to the review process.

SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS - There were no public hearings

PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda items only) - None Presented

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 2016 Re-Organization Meeting

Councilman O'Brien offered that he has spoken with both Mrs. King & Mr. Merriken about the date of January 1st at noon; all 3 of them are available for that day.

Borough Clerk stated that January 1, 2016 at Noon will be added to Resolution No. 2015-178 which is on the agenda.

- 2016 Request for Qualifications

Mr. Delaney added that it's that time of year and with a scheduled re-organization date the RFQ's could be advertised, the deadline for acceptance would be December 30, 2015.

Council agreed.

MAYOR & COUNCIL REPORTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilman Tienken – stated that the soccer program had been expanded this year, joining with Manasquan and was a beneficial move. He hoped to the recreation programs continue as it has been very successful.

Councilman Campion – stated there was not a report for utilities but thanked everyone for their support and wished all a happy holiday.

Councilman Vorbach – wished everyone a happy holiday.

Councilman Shuler – reported that the old equipment that was in storage at the borough yard has been sold and everything will be removed over the next 2 weeks.

Councilwoman King – read a thank you note addressed to Mr. Carragher from Mr. & Mrs. Frost about the Veterans Day luncheon and what a wonderful event it is. Mrs. King expressed thanks to the committee. Mrs. King wished Mayor Maccancio the best and welcomed incoming Mayor O'Brien. Mrs. King wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Councilman O'Brien – thanked both Councilman Tienken and Mayor Maccanico for their service to the borough and wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

REPORTS, NOTICES & CORRESPONDENCE

- Monthly Revenue Report – November 2015
- Monthly Court Revenue Report - October 2015
- Monthly Court Revenue Report - November 2015
- Thank you letter from John & Regina Frost –Veterans Day Luncheon
- Thank you letter from Lynn Kegelman –Veterans Day Ceremony
- Notice of Zoning Board of Adjustment Hearing Block 59 Lot 33 564 Church St.
- Letter from Monmouth County Board of Taxation dated 12/02/15: ADP Reassessment Change
- Letter from Monmouth County Board of Taxation dated 12/10/15: ADP Reassessment Change
- Letter from Victor Tuohy -563 Atlantic Ave. dated December 9, 2015 Re: Tax Assessment, Inc. E-Mail response from J. Delaney
- Copy of Resolution 218-2015 – Borough of Eatontown, opting out of Assessment Demonstration program
- Copy of Resolution 270-2015 - Borough of Manasquan, Municipal Stream Cleaning

Mayor Maccanico asked Mr. Delaney if he wanted to add anything to the correspondence. Mr. Delaney wanted to point out that the Monmouth County Board of Taxation is now allowing municipalities to opt out of the tax assessment program. He reported that Spring Lake Heights has a contract for services for the year 2016 but could also opt out for 2017. He added that the new process has its benefits. The borough would know the tax rate when our budget is adopted giving us a total assess valuation. Mr. Delaney added that the deadline to opt out is April 2016.

Mr. Campion was not happy that he wasn't inspected but yet his assessment was increased.

Council members discussed would is the best process. Mrs. King pointed out the letter listed under correspondence form Mr. Tuohy and the discrepancy between his new assessment and his neighbors, their properties are located by the borough yard. She added that this was a program forced upon on us. Mr. Delaney pointed out that the County elected to participate in the new program. Mr. Shuler felt that the council should review this program before moving forward.

Mrs. King pointed in a negative newspaper article about Realty Data, she feels that the Borough should opt out.

Mr. Delaney pointed out that any resident dissatisfied with their assessment should exercise their right to appeal; unfortunately the council cannot make a change. Mr. Champion thought that the timing for the appeal process is not very friendly as the cards come out in November, the holidays come upon us and then it must be done by mid-January.

Mr. O'Brien offered that the council must review and evaluate what would be best for the town.

ORDINANCE INTRODUCTIONS There were no ordinance introductions.

RESOLUTIONS

- **R2015-174**, Authorizing refund of overpaid taxes

On a motion by Mr. Shuler, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, Resolution No. 2015-174 was approved, by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Champion, Mrs. King, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Tienken, Mr. Vorbach
Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

- **R2015-175**, Authorizing use of the Community Center

On a motion by Mr. Vorbach, seconded by Mr. Shuler, Resolution No. 2015-175 was approved, by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Champion, Mrs. King, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Tienken, Mr. Vorbach
Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

- **R2015-176**, Authorizing transfer of 2015 Budget Appropriations

On a motion by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Shuler, Resolution No. 2015-176 was approved, by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Champion, Mrs. King, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Tienken, Mr. Vorbach
Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

- **R2015-177**, Naming of Fletcher property to Veterans Tribute Park

Mayor Maccanico read the inscription to be placed on the monument.

On a motion by Mr. Tienken, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, Resolution No. 2015-177 was approved, by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Champion, Mrs. King, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Tienken, Mr. Vorbach
Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

- **R2015-178**, Establishing the 2016 reorganization meeting date

On a motion by Mrs. King, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, Resolution No. 2015-178 was approved, by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Champion, Mrs. King, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Tienken, Mr. Vorbach
Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

- **R2015-179**, Approving payment of claims on the December 11, 2015 Bill List

On a motion by Mr. O'Brien, seconded by Mr. Shuler, Resolution No. 2015-179 was approved, by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Champion, Mrs. King, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Tienken, Mr. Vorbach
Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

- **R2015-180**, Appointing a Sergeant to the Police Department

On a motion by Mrs. King, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, Resolution No. 2015-180 was approved, by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Champion, Mrs. King, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Tienken, Mr. Vorbach
Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

▪ **R2015-181**, Requesting a Change Order – High Tech Landscape

Mr. Delaney explained the change order was a reduction to the contract amount.

On a motion by Mrs. King, seconded by Mr. O'Brien, Resolution No. 2015-181 was approved, by the following vote:

Ayes: Mr. Champion, Mrs. King, Mr. O'Brien, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Tienken, Mr. Vorbach
Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

PUBLIC COMMENT (Any item)

Kat Crippen 564 Atlantic Avenue stated that Mr. Tuohy is her neighbor, she added that most of the neighbors like her only went up 30,000. Living on Atlantic the Borough yard is there which a contaminated lot which helps when appealing is. She offered that there are some inconsistencies in the neighborhood. She feels the borough should opt out. Mr. Champion asked if she was inspected, Ms. Crippen replied yes. She added that the inspector was very inappropriate with comments about the property's Ms. Crippen reported that moving forward the council meetings will be streamed live.

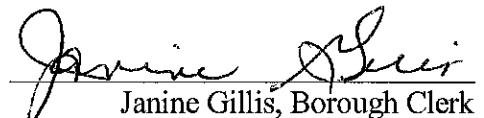
Diane Hutson 27 Magnolia purchased her home 3 years ago, she appealed her taxes and they were lowered and again this year she was raised. She feels the units in Fairway Mews should not be evaluated equally some are located on the golf course.

Councilwoman King stepped down to make a presentation of a gift basket to Mr. Tienken, thanking him for his service to the council and to the residents of Spring Lake Heights. Mr. Tienken thanked council for their support and stated that it was a joy working for the residents.

Councilwoman King then asked Mr. Maccanico to step down and presented him with a gift basket, she added that it was a pleasure to serve with him and thanked him for his dedication.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on a motion by Mrs. King, seconded by Mr. Vorbach, the meeting was adjourned without objection at 8:53 p.m.


Janine Gillis, Borough Clerk

Approved: January 11, 2016