

JANUARY 4, 2010
COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
BOROUGH OF COLLINGSWOOD, NJ

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was held at the Collingswood Community Center, 30 W. Collings Avenue, Collingswood, N.J., on the second floor, at 7:00 P.M. Mayor M. James Maley, Jr., called the meeting to order, with Commissioner Michael Hall and Commissioner Joan Leonard present. Mayor Maley read the Sunshine Notice stating that the Borough has complied with provisions of the Sunshine Law by adopting prior to January 10 of this year, a resolution prescribing the dates, times and locations of all regular meetings of the Commission. This meeting was one of the meetings listed on the resolution. He led the Pledge of Allegiance. The previous meeting's minutes and the Municipal Court, Construction Code Officer and Treasurer reports were approved and seconded.

The following resolutions were approved without a dissenting vote.

- 1 Appointing Richard Sarlo as Acting Police Chief
- 2 Appointing Daniel Bernardin as Alternate Municipal Court Judge
- 3 Appointing Timothy Search as Municipal Prosecutor
- 4 Appointing Andrew Viola as Alternate Municipal Prosecutor
- 5 Appointing Francis Moran as Indigent Counsel and Public Defender
- 6 Appointing Holly Mannel as Registrar of Vital Statistics
- 7 Appointing James Verzella, Carol Vita, and James Coakley to the Planning Board
- 7 Appointing John Bellace to the Zoning Board as an alternate
- 7 Appointing Keith Haberern, Gerard Chambers, and Claire Gustufson to the Historic Preservation Commission
- 7 Appointing Margaret Witte to the Shade Tree Commission
- 8 Adopting a Schedule of Regular Meetings of the Commissioners and Boards in 2010
- 9 Professional Service Contract to Brown & Connery, LLP, as Municipal Attorneys
- 10 Professional Service Contract to Parker McCay, P.A. as Bond Counsel
- 11 Professional Service Contract to Remington & Vernick as Municipal Engineers
- 12 Professional Service Contract Conner Strong Companies as Risk Management Consultants
- 13 Professional Service Contract Petroni & Associates for Municipal Auditor
- 14 Authorizing the Tax Assessor to File Appeals in 2010
- 15 Approving a Cash Management Plan for the Borough in 2010
- 16 Approving Depositories for Borough of Collingswood Funds in 2010
- 17 Approving the Interest and Grace Period on Taxes, Water, and Sewer in 2010
- 18 Approving the Purchase of Items Under State Contract (Pedroni Fuel, Majestic Oil, Edmunds & Assoc., T. M Fitzgerald, and Motorola c/o Wireless C&E)
- 19 Awarding a Contract to Community Animal Care Services for Animal Control in 2010
- 20 Awarding a Contract to Animal Welfare Society of Camden County for Shelter Services in 2010
- 21 Re- Appropriating Parking Utility Reserve Balance Funds
- 22 Requesting Dedication By Rider Pursuant to NJSA 40A:4-39
- 23 Approving Year 2010 Temporary Budget Appropriations
- 24 Appointing Holly Mannel as Acting Borough Clerk

Commissioner Hall congratulated Chief Richard Sarlo on his appointment. He wished everyone a happy New Year. He thanked the Borough Employees for all their hard work throughout the year. He also spoke about the start of the upcoming budget process.

Commissioner Leonard acknowledged the hard work & dedicated service of the many reappointed board members; whom some have been members for many years. She thanked the all the volunteers for their continued service every year. She also thanked the borough employees; police, fire and public works for all they do throughout the year. She wished everyone a Happy and Healthy New Year and is looking forward to a great 2010.

Mayor Maley thanked the Borough Hall, the businesses and the many volunteers for their continuous hard work with the many promotions and events during the holiday season keeping our business district going.

Mayor Maley spoke on Camden County's plan for the privatization of their jail. He said had a meeting with the County where they went into great length for their reasons for privatization. He stated these are decisions that are being made by the county and he will not be involved making these decisions. He said what does affect us is the location and the suggested Mt Ephraim site. He said the county is sending out Requests for Proposals from several corporate jail operators. Mayor Maley said he sent a letter to the County Administrator asking the County to include in their request; that the facility can be no more than 2000 feet from a residence. This would make the suggested Mt Ephraim site not eligible. The Mayor referred residents to the Collingswood website where a copy of the letter to the County can be viewed under the Mayor's Blog. He said he is speaking with Freeholder Cappelli regularly and believes the borough will not be affected by the new location of the jail.

Mayor Maley then mentioned the upcoming budget process. He said we will see what will transpire at the end of this month with the new governor. We are doing all we can. The Mayor said heading into the end of 2009 some cuts were made in preparation for 2010 in order for the Borough to continue the services our residents are used to.

Mayor Maley opened the meeting to the public.

Linda Kane, 6 Powell Lane, asked about parking on Atlantic Ave. She stated both sides of the street are no parking and asked if one side could be made available. The Mayor explained it is being looked into. He said we have had vehicles going the wrong way, a lot of construction traffic, and the needs of the businesses and the Atlantic Avenue residents all need to be addressed. Mayor Maley said one of the things that was done is open the parking garage for Borough & business employee parking. He said the garage needs one more thing done before it can be opened to the public. The Mayor says he believes that opening the garage to the employees has helped by making more parking available on the streets for customers.

Tim O'Neill, 18 W. Linden Ave asked why the minutes have not been updated on the website since April. Mayor Maley explained that the Borough Clerk Alice Marks had just retired and due to the budget the Borough Hall is short staffed. The Mayor said there are two volunteers helping with the website; Bill Weightman and the recently retired John Kane. Mayor Maley also mentioned copies of the minutes are available any time at Borough Hall. Mr. O'Neill then asked where he may find the names and terms of the people who serve on the zoning and planning boards. The Mayor said the information would be made available to him. Mr. O'Neil then said he wanted the Mayor to know that he received a letter from the DEP in reference to ground water contamination from Shenk's Cleaners. The Mayor said he is aware of the letter that was mailed out to residents and that the DEP is doing tests to determine the full effected area. The Mayor also said there will be a meeting in the near future with those residents. Mr. O'Neill then asked the Mayor and Commissioners to consider passing an ordinance, putting on the ballot or the possibility of petition drive to change the number of Commissioners from three members to five members. The Mayor informed Mr. O'Neill there was an unsuccessful petition drive in 1988 to change the form of government. Mayor Maley said he is not in favor of changing the Borough's form of government.

Joseph Dinella, 716 Stokes Avenue, asked who is in charge of the Recreation Dept. The Mayor responded that he and Commissioners Leonard and Hall are in charge. Mr. Dinella said he feels the Recreation Program is lacking needs improvement. Mayor Maley asked for specifics. Mr. Dinella said he would make a list. The Mayor asked Mr. Dinella to submit his list to Brad Stokes, Borough Administrator.


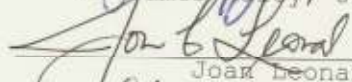

Tim O'Neill, 18 W. Linden Avenue asked if the contractor of the Lumberyard Project was to miss a payment on the Bridge Loan is the borough responsible for that missed payment. Mayor Maley explained the Bridge Loan was a loan made from the Borough into the Lumberyard project. The Mayor said the loan will be repaid when the construction financing funds the project. He also explained that there is security in the land and the borough is not responsible for the loan payments.

Joseph Dinella, 716 Stokes Avenue asked if we have previous security of two million dollars from the start of the Lumberyard Project. Mayor Maley explained the borough has money invested in the project. The Mayor also said the borough holds a mortgage from when the land was sold and the note gets paid off as units sell. Mr. Dinella asked about the Borough purchase and sale of 505 Haddon Ave. Mayor Maley explained the property was acquired through a Tax Foreclosure at no expense to the Borough. The Borough then sold the property for \$250,000. The Mayor continued to explain how the new owners; at the time, leased the property from the Borough, completed major renovations, purchased the property, ran a successful business and after a few years resold the property at profit where now sits the newest restaurant in town.

With no further comments, Mayor Maley closed the public session of the meeting.

Mayor Maley invited Richard Sarlo and his family to the front of the room where the Mayor read to the new Acting Police Chief the Oath of Office. Mayor Maley congratulated Chief Sarlo and commended the police department for their great tradition of service and the investment they hold in the community. The Mayor said he believes that tradition will continue under Chief Sarlo. Commissioner's Hall and Leonard congratulated Chief Sarlo. Chief Sarlo thanked the Mayor and Commissioners for the opportunity to serve Collingswood as their Police Chief. Chief Sarlo acknowledged the dedication to law enforcement and the dedication to the Borough of the men and women of the Collingswood police department. He stated he feels proud and privileged to serve with them as Police Chief.

With no further comments, Mayor Maley moved the meeting be adjourned at 7:39 PM, which was seconded.


M. James Maley, Jr.

Joan Leonard

Absent
Michael Hall
Borough Commissioners


Holly Harnel - Acting Borough Clerk
Alize Marks, Borough Clerk

