

MAY 3, 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, NJ, on the second floor, at 7:00 P.M. Mayor M. James Maley, Jr., called the meeting to order, with Commissioner Joan Leonard present and Commissioner Michael Hall 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 Tax Collector, Construction Code Officer and Treasurer reports were approved and seconded.

The Commissioners called for second reading and public hearing of 1477 Authorizing a Utility Easement and Mitigation Area of Certain Borough Properties on Route 130 to the New Jersey Department of Transportation. Mayor Maley opened the ordinance to the public, but with no response he moved the public hearing closed and the ordinance be approved on a second and final reading, which was seconded and approved by the following call of the roll:

Aye: M. James Maley, Jr.  
Aye: Joan Leonard  
Aye: Michael A. Hall

The Commissioners Tabled Ordinance 1478 Amending Ordinance 1148 "An Ordinance Implementing a Redevelopment Plan for an Area Located in the Borough of Collingswood" Known as the Eldridge Gardens and West Collings Avenue Project Area Adopted on April 6, 1998 until the June 14 2010 Commission Meeting. Mayor Maley explained Which was seconded and approved by the following call of the roll:

Aye: M. James Maley, Jr.  
Aye: Joan Leonard  
Aye: Michael A. Hall

The Commissioners called for second reading and public hearing of Ordinance 1479 Salaries and Wages for 2010. Mayor Maley opened the ordinance to the public, but with no response he moved the public hearing closed and the ordinance be approved on a second and final reading, which was seconded and approved by the following call of the roll:

Aye: M. James Maley, Jr.  
Aye: Joan Leonard  
Aye: Michael A. Hall

The Commissioners called for second reading and public hearing of Ordinance 1480 Authorizing Funding for the Lumberyard Redevelopment Project appropriating the sum of \$750,000.00. Mayor Maley opened the ordinance to the public. Joseph Dinella, 716 Stokes Avenue asked how we will get our money back from the Lumberyard. The Mayor explained we are secured through mortgages on the project. A discussion ensued over the Lumberyard Project. Bill Filinuk, 1002 Haddon Ave. asked what part of the project does this Ordinance effect. Mayor Maley explained that it is to get the garage opened to the public and to finish the town homes behind the Verizon building. With no further comments Mayor Maley moved to the public hearing closed and the ordinance be approved on a second and final reading, which was seconded and approved by the following call of the roll:

Aye: M. James Maley, Jr.  
Aye: Joan Leonard  
Aye: Michael A. Hall

The Commissioners called for the First Reading of Ordinance 1481 Amending Chapters 29, 217 & 237 of the Borough Code. Mayor Maley explained this is to raise some Recreation Program Fees, to establish third party billing for fire calls and changing housing inspections and the fees collected to be done every other year. He moved the ordinance be approved on first reading, published, and the second reading and public hearing to be held on June 14, 2010 which was seconded and approved by the following call of the roll:

Aye: M. James Maley, Jr.  
Aye: Joan Leonard  
Aye: Michael A. Hall

The Commissioners called for the First Reading of Ordinance 1482 to Exceed 2010 Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and to Establish a Cap Bank. Mayor Maley moved the ordinance be approved on first reading, published, and the second reading and public hearing to be held on June 14, 2010 which was seconded and approved by the following call of the roll:

Aye: M. James Maley, Jr.  
Aye: Joan Leonard  
Aye: Michael A. Hall

The following Resolutions were approved without a dissenting vote.

62. Appointing Elena Beneditti as Deputy Municipal Court Administrator
63. Appointing Carol Staszewski as Deputy Municipal Court Administrator
64. (See April)
65. Appointing Kathleen Harrington as Municipal Court Administrator
66. Appointing Keith Hastings as Tax Collector
67. Introducing and Approving the 2010 Municipal Budget
68. Approving an Application to the State of New Jersey for a Safe and Secure Grant, Number P-4827
69. Authorizing to advertise for Request for Proposals to perform Energy Efficiency Improvements
70. Approving Membership in the Collingswood Fire Department / Fire Company No.1 Fire Explorer Post 161.
71. Approving the Independence Day Celebration
72. Authorizing an Inter-Local Agreement with the Borough of Oaklyn for Electrical and Plumbing Inspections.
73. Approving the Payment of Bills in General Accounts
74. Approving the Payment of Bills in Water Accounts
75. Approving the Payment of Bills in Sewer Accounts

Commissioner Hall congratulated Chief Amet on the membership of his son into the Fire Explorers. He mentioned the May Fair was coming up at the end of the month and he encouraged people to come out for a wonderful day. Commissioner Hall spoke about the difficulties involved with the Budget Process. He thanked Sandy Powell, Brad Stokes and all the Department Heads for all their hard work during that process.

Commissioner Leonard mentioned the loss of Doris Hand who was employed at the Library for many years. Mrs. Hand was 92 years old and lived her entire life in Collingswood. Commissioner Leonard said was a wonderful lady and added Mrs. Hand was the Town Historian and she will be greatly missed. Her Family is in our thoughts and prayers. Commissioner Leonard reminded everyone that Roberts Pool Tags were available at a discounted rate until June 15<sup>th</sup>. She also mentioned Earth Day and Arbor Day and that she had the opportunity to spend it with some of the grade schools. She said the students and teachers were working on some great projects. Commissioner Leonard thanked all the volunteers who came out for the Green Festival. She mentioned that the Proud Neighbors Porch Brunch and House Tour will be this month. Commissioner Leonard commented that it is a great day of showcasing many of Collingwood's beautiful and historic homes.

Mayor Maley announced that Spring is officially here and a sure sign is that the Farmers Market is open. Mayor Maley commented there were many people in attendance this evening so he would open the public potion.

Mayor Maley opened the meeting to the public.

Eleanor Couris 425 Lincoln Ave. complained about the stop sign at the intersection of Lincoln and Center Streets. She stated that a tree was blocking the stop sign. Mayor Maley said it would be taken care of. Mrs. Couris had another concern about the traffic pattern and the parking spots on Maple Ave. near Washington Ave. Mayor Maley said her concern would be looked into.

Christina Caruso 724 Woodlynne Ave. reported that she had the Collingswood Police Dept. called to her property earlier in the day because of a drug vial that she beleived had washed up into her backyard from the creek behind her home. She commented she has had numerous problems with her yard flooding and was asking for help. Commissioner Leonard referred Ms. Caruso's comments to Brad Stokes, Borough Administrator. Mr. Stokes told Ms. Caruso that the NJ DEP has issued the permit that the Borough has been waiting on in order to start some of the work that will need to be done. Mr. Stokes also mentioned that John Meier, Collingswood's Water Superintendent, spoke to a Laboratory about having some testing done and that after the test results are back that will determine what landfill could be used. Mr. Stokes said he suspects work should begin in the next thirty to sixty days. Ms. Caruso asked if the Borough could supply her with compost or soil to build her yard up so she can plant trees in her yard.

Geoff Joyce 319 Comly Ave. asked that now that the Route 130 circle project is almost complete is there any talk of the properties in the area being removed from the flood plane? Mayor Maley responded that the properties were determined to be in a flood zone while the project to fix the problem was going on. He said it shouldn't have been done and that the Borough Engineers have been working on it. Mayor Maley asked Brad Stokes to respond. Mr. Stokes agreed that the Borough Engineers have been working on getting the area redetermined. He also said the Borough is working with Congressman Rob Andrew's office on getting those properties' flood status reconsidered.

Joe Dinella, 726 Stokes Ave. asked what this year's pension payment is for 2010. Mayor Maley responded 1.2 million dollars. Mr. Dinella asked if this amount included any payments for deferred funds. Mayor Maley explained that 1.2 million is for 2010 contributions. Mayor Maley continued to explain when the pension was deferred and the deferment repayment schedule.

Mike McEwan, Crestwood Apartments asked about the layoffs of municipal employees and any plans to bring the employees back. Mayor Maley explained not at this time. Mayor Maley added the layoffs were due to the budget constraints. Mayor Maley stressed the layoffs of Borough employees was not something he and the Commissioners wanted to do.



Bill Filinuk, 1002 Haddon Ave. asked about budget concerns for next year. Mayor Maley responded that there is no real way to predict what will happen next year. The Mayor explained the 4 percent cap on property taxes. Mayor Maley then explained what could happen if the 2 percent cap is put into effect. A discussion ensued about the budget, state aid, and the reduction of municipal revenue.

Joe Dinella, 716 Stokes Ave. asked about using the money from the Pride Grant for the Borough's Pension Contribution. Mayor Maley explained that taking a one time revenue and using it for recurring expenses doesn't solve any problems. The Mayor said if we were to do that it would effect the budget next year and start us off in the negative. A discussion ensued about Borough owned properties, Transit Village, infrastructure problems and the necessity of creating new rateables.

Mike McEwan, Crestwood Apartments asked why Collingswood doesn't start issuing liquor licenses. Mayor Maley explained that it could not be used as a source of annual revenue. The initial sale of a license is a one time revenue source. Mayor Maley continued that only three licenses would be available due to ABC Board population regulations and he added it isn't something Collingswood wants.

With no further comments, Mayor Maley moved the meeting be adjourned at 7:50 PM, which was seconded.

  
K. Holly Mannel  
Acting Borough Clerk

  
M. James Maley, Jr.  
*Absent*  
Joan Leonard  
  
Michael Hall  
Borough Commissioners

