

October 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, 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. Mayor Maley led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Tax Collector, Construction Code Officer Municipal Court and Treasurer reports were approved and seconded.

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. Mayor Maley moved the ordinance be tabled 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 Ordinance 1483 Amending Section 241-1 of the Borough Code. Mayor Maley explained this ordinance is to follow the state regulations as to what can be charged for OPRA requests. Mayor Maley opened the ordinance to the public. Tim O'Neill 18 W. Linden asked how this affects the Borough and the public. Mayor Maley explained it lowers the public's cost for documents that are requested through OPRA. 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 following resolutions were approved without a dissenting vote.

128. Approving the Year 2009 Audit Report
129. Appointing John Kane to the Collingswood Planning Board
130. Appointing James Doyle as a member of the Collingswood Housing Authority
131. Appointing Robert Rodriguez as a member of the Collingswood Housing Authority
132. Approving the Purchase of Items Under State Contract
133. Approving an Emergency Contract for Repairs to a Motor & Controls at Well Number 5
134. Approving the Year 32 Community Development Agreement
135. Authorizing the Execution of an Interlocal Services Agreement between the Borough of Collingswood and the County of Camden for Snow Removal
136. Authorizing the Submission of a Treatment Works Permit to the Department of Environmental Protection
137. Approving the Payment of Bills in General Accounts
138. Approving the Payment of Bills in Water Accounts
139. Approving the Payment of Bills in Sewer Accounts

Commissioner Hall had no comment.

Commissioner Leonard congratulated and thanked all the people who worked on the Book Festival. She thanked Jean Brennan and Brett Bonfield and the Borough Employees for all their hard work. Commissioner Leonard said it was an outstanding day and that the Book Festival gets bigger and better every year.

Mayor Maley mentioned the opening of the Community Theater production of Urinetown. The Mayor encouraged people to go out see it. Mayor Maley thanked Brett Bonfield for all the work he has done with the Book Festival and the many events leading up to it. Mayor Maley mentioned because of Mr. Bonfield's hard work and dedication Library usage has increased.

Mayor Maley opened the meeting to the public.

RJ Anderson, 101 State St. Trenton, NJ introduced himself as a staff representative for the Legal Council of the FOP. Mr. Anderson congratulated the Mayor and Commissioners on all the successes of the town. Mr. Anderson talked about the economy and the influence it has on crime. Mr. Anderson also talked about police protection. He talked about the Borough audit. Mr. Anderson said he reviewed the Borough's Audit and he believes there are funds that could be used

for more police protection. Mr. Anderson said he has concerns for the safety of officers and the public. He thinks there are not enough officers employed by the Borough. Mr. Anderson mentioned ways the Borough could pay for more officers and suggested a state study to determine how many officers Collingswood should have. Mayor Maley explained that the police layoffs that occurred over the weekend were proposed in the beginning of the year. Mayor Maley further explained the three officers who were laid off were the result of the police agreement the Borough had with Woodlynne. Mayor Maley said that discussions were held with the Bargaining Units at the beginning of the year. Mayor Maley said during the discussions it was suggested that if the police took less of a pay raise that the lay offs would not need to occur. Mayor Maley continued to explain that the bargaining unit would not agree to take a lower pay increase. Mayor Maley also said he would be happy to review any reports that Mr. Anderson may have which would prove any additional money in the budget. Mayor Maley explained the proposed layoffs were announced in January, he said he does not understand why these suggestions and concerns are being brought to him after the layoffs have occurred. Mayor Maley added the time for these discussions would have been before the police layoffs occurred. Mayor Maley said he is always concerned about Public Safety and that he believes over the years a great police department has been built and wants that to continue. Mayor Maley talked about the 2011 Budget and the 2011 Pension Contribution and his concerns for the upcoming year.

Mike Pettroli, 1030 Harrison asked if Collingswood has enough police protection. Mayor Maley said yes. A discussion ensued about state grants and funds received for capital projects being used for police salaries. Mr. Pettroli asked if our officers would be going back into Woodlynne. Mayor Maley said the Borough would not enter into another interlocal agreement with Woodlynne but under certain circumstances the Collingswood Police would go into Woodlynne to assist the Woodlynne officers. Mayor Maley continued to explain that Collingswood offers mutual aid to all the surrounding communities. A discussion ensued about whether the borough has enough police protection.

RJ Anderson, 101 State St. Trenton, NJ asked about having the state of NJ doing a man power study. Mayor Maley responded he does not know about the program and that he would be happy to look at it.

Brian Conte, president of FOP Lodge 76, asked if the Mayor and Commissioners did everything possible to save the jobs of the Police officers who were laid off. Mayor Maley responded yes. Mayor Maley added the layoffs were announced more than 6 months ago. He does not understand why it is being questioned now. Mayor Maley explained the Budget has been adopted and tax bills have been sent, nothing can change for this budget year. A discussion ensued about how many officers have been laid off, how many have retired and how many will be retiring. Mr. Conte asked funds will be available to rehire officers with the savings from the officers who are retiring. Mayor Maley said we have not gotten there yet.

Tim O'Neill 18 W. Linden Ave. suggested an alternative Health Care Plan System that would help save money. Mr. O'Neil asked the Borough Commissioners to adopt a resolution endorsing a single payer health care plan. Mr. O'Neil explained the benefits of this system.

Ms. McNally an E.Knight Ave. resident said she is here in support of the police officers and EMTs. She asked if the layoffs were due to lack finances or if their services were not needed. Mayor Maley explained that layoffs were due to the interlocal agreement with Woodlynne coming to an end. Mayor Maley continued to explain the number of officers who have been laid off, the number of officers who retired and how many are planning to retire and that he and Chief Sarlo are working together to deal with it all the best we can.

Mike Pettroli, 1030 Harrison Ave. asked if money from the Lumberyard Project could be used to save Police Officer jobs. Mayor Maley explained the funds from the Lumberyard Project and Police Salaries are two different budgets. A discussion ensued about revenues, budget caps, state aid, and police salaries.

Brian Conte, president of FOP Lodge 76, asked if it was true that the Police Officers were willing to give back the 2010 3.75% pay raise in order to save jobs? Mayor Maley replied no.

Tim O'Neil 18 W. Linden Ave. commented the police raises are a negotiated contract. Mayor Maley agreed. Mr. O'Neil asked if the layoffs will effect public safety. Mayor Maley responded no.

Bill Erriso, a member of FOP Lodge 76 asked Mayor Maley how many years experience as a Police Officer does he have. Mayor Maley replied he has never been a police officer but he has almost 20 years experience as a Public Safety Director and he works closely with the Police Chief. Mayor Maley asked Mr. Erriso if he had any questions. Mr. Erriso asked if Police Chief Sarlo would comment on Public Safety. Mayor Maley told Mr. Erriso no, that he would not allow the Police Chief to be questioned in this manner.

Brian Conte, President of FOP Lodge 76 asked about upcoming police promotions. Mayor Maley asked what promotions? Mr. Conte said there was scuttlebutt in the police dept. about the layoffs and promotions. Mayor Maley responded scuttlebutt is scuttlebutt and there are no upcoming promotions.

Mike Pettroli, 1030 Harrison Ave. asked if the Police Chief could put it in writing that he believes the police layoffs will effect public safety. Mayor Maley explained that the Police Chief is not going to do that. Mayor Maley continued to explain that he as Public Safety Director and Police Chief Sarlo take this process very seriously. Mayor Maley commented that Mike Pettroli had made a comment at a prior meeting when the police officers were initially hired. Mr. Pettroli had asked if we needed those police officers. Mayor Maley explained that question has been with him since then. Mayor Maley explained when the extra officers were hired for the Woodlynne agreement there was Federal funds available. We were eligible for the funds and took them; we did not do a review to decide if we really needed the extra officers. Now the funds are gone and the agreement is over and we are reviewing how many officers are needed. Mr. Pettroli asked if we apply for grants? Mayor Maley replied yes.

RJ Anderson, 101 State St. Trenton, NJ asked if Collingswood is receiving any Federal funding for police officers. Mayor Maley explained we are in the last year for those funds. Mayor Maley said over the many years he has been safety director there has never been a thought of laying off a police officer but over the past two years due to economics. Mayor Maley told the police officers that there work is appreciated. Mayor Maley mentioned that the police department is not the only department facing layoffs but all the Borough departments are being effected. Mayor Maley continued to explain contracts are up this year and the negotiation process is not going to be easy. Mayor Maley included that he does and always will make himself available for discussions.

Tim O'Neill 18 W. Linden Ave. asked if the Borough Commissioners would support a Single Payer Health Care System. Mayor Maley told Mr. O'Neill to submit his information.

Michael Pope, 201 Woodlawn Ter. commented on the Lumberyard Project and his concerns that funds are being spent on a project while Borough employees are being laid off. Mayor Maley explained the funds for the Lumberyard Project and Budget funds are separate. Mayor Maley further explained that if the Lumberyard Project were to be abandoned the layoffs would still be necessary. A discussion ensued about property taxes, state aid, revenues and pension contributions and Lumberyard sales and personnel cost.

Brian Conte, President of FOP Lodge 76 asked if outside council would be used for contract negotiations. Mayor Maley responded yes.

Tim O'Neil 18 W. Linden Ave. asked if the Town Crier is printed on recycled paper? Mayor Maley referred the question to Cass Duffey, Borough Communications Director. Mrs. Duffey replied she believes that it is but she would find out for sure.

With no further comments, Mayor Maley moved the meeting be adjourned at 8:35PM, which was seconded.

  
K. Holly Mannel  
Acting Borough Clerk

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

