WORKSHOP MEETING OF THE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF LITTLE FALLS WAS HELD THIS EVENING IN THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING

Monday, May 4, 2015

Council President Louis Fontana called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. with the following members present: Pamela Porter, Joseph Maceri, and William Liess. Also present were Mayor Darlene Conti, Township Attorney Leslie London, Township Administrator Charles Cuccia and Municipal Clerk Cynthia Kraus.

Absent: Councilmember James Damiano and Township Engineer Dennis Lindsay

Township Employees present: DPW Superintendent Phillip Simone, Recreation Director John Pace and Township Planner Jeff Janota

Following the Salute to the Flag, the Statement of Public Notice was read.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC NOTICE: Take notice that adequate notice of this meeting was provided in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10:4-10 as follows: A notice of the meeting was prominently posted on the bulletin board at the Municipal Building, located at 225 Main Street, Little Falls, N.J. on January 6, 2015; a copy of the notice was faxed to the North Jersey Herald and News and The Record on the same date; additionally, a copy of the notice was filed in the office of the Township Clerk on said date.

PUBLIC PORTION

It was moved by Councilmember Porter, seconded by Councilmember Liess, that the meeting be and it was opened to the public.

Poll: Ayes: Porter, Maceri, Liess and Council President Fontana

Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

<u>Mark Simolaris</u>, 111 First Avenue, presented several questions relating to PEOSHA training, responsibility of maintaining the Peckman River with regard to large trash, replacement of trees on Third Street, storm drains, and notification/justification of the DPW Secretary position.

<u>Diane Kramic</u>, 10 Zeliff Avenue, following a suggestion from Senator O'Toole's office, requested acceptance into the Blue Acres program.

Arnold Korotkin, Long Hill Road, thanked Councilmember Porter for attending the Passaic Valley School Board meetings and advocating on behalf of citizens. He recommended the two school boards meet on different days. The expired Health Department certificate at MSU has been rectified. He supports reinstatement of the Grant Committee. He requested follow-up on recent branch removal performed by PSE&G.

<u>Maria Cordonnier</u>, 648 Upper Mountain Avenue, attended the Passaic Valley Board of Education meeting and appreciated Councilmember Porter's recommendation to televise the meetings. She commented their meeting model, reporting, and two public comment portions were very productive.

Renea Shapiro, Walnut Street, agreed with Ms. Cordonnier about public comment and questioned why public comment is not at the end of tonight's meeting. She urged the Council to address a NJ Transit hearing to eliminate the last train at Little Falls Station. She commended Mr. Cuccia for responding to her concerns in a timely manner. She questioned whether the Township would consider using solar power as a potential cost savings. She recommended the Grant Committee be reinstated.

Rosemarie Bello-Truland, High Court, questioned in what location(s) billboards would be placed.

Bob Schaffer, Montclair Avenue, with respect to the Transit Village, requested the Council consider the issues of instituting a noise ordinance on trains during late night hours and methods to address potential flooding in the Montclair Avenue area.

<u>Thomas Paulhus</u>, 123 Montclair Avenue, announced the NJ Transit public hearings will be convened on 5/21/15 at the Paterson Museum from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. He agreed with Grant Committee reinstatement.

No one further having come forward to be heard, it was moved by Councilmember Porter, seconded by Councilmember Liess, that the meeting be and it was closed to the public.

Poll: Ayes: Porter, Maceri, Liess and Council President Fontana

Nays: None

The Council President declared the motion passed.

Mr. Simone stated full compliance will be achieved after tomorrow's PEOSHA training. He will investigate the trash issue in the Peckman River. Trees are slated to be planted within the next month. With regard to storm drains, Mr. Simone described two projects in place: one is to replace and repair storm drain lines on William Street to address flooding; the second project involves running a new interceptor line from the drainage on William Street to Island Avenue pump station.

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Mr. Simone stated the DPW secretary is not a new position, but rather a status change from part time to full time based on workload. Mr. Cuccia explained the determination to change status was made by longitudinal review. There was no posting requirement.

Mr. Cuccia informed Ms. Kramic that her home is on the list for the Blue Acres program.

Council President FONTANA thanked Councilmember Porter for attending the Board of Education meetings and the Clifton Health Department for following up on the certificate at MSU.

Mr. Simone explained that BPU requires trees within 15 to be cut to allow substation lines to be run from Notch, Long Hill, Browertown to Woodland Park to Totowa. He is scheduled to meet and discuss issues with PSE&G on Wednesday.

Council President FONTANA provided a status report from the Finance Committee. He commented that the second public comment does not seem more effective since questions can be posed any time, not just specifically at meetings.

Mr. Cuccia responded that he has not received any train schedule information to date.

Mayor Conti recommended if the Council agrees, the possibility of solar power could be examined.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

ADMINISTRATOR:

1. TRANSIT VILLAGE ZONING ORDINANCE- Mr. Janota itemized the amendments made to the ordinance based on public comments made after the last Council and collaboration with Mr. Cuccia.

At this time, Council President FONTANA welcomed questions from the public regarding Transit Village Zoning.

<u>John Veteri</u>, 133 Prospect Street, commented on office and retail, noting the area of focus should be west of Schumacher. He expressed concern regarding the live/work idea.

<u>Renea Shapiro</u>, Walnut Street, expressed concern regarding ratables and agreed with Mr. Veteri. She suggested that the hub might be more beneficial at Montclair Avenue rather than Center Street.

In response to Mr. Veteri and Ms. Shapiro, Mr. Janota addressed the concerns of the live/work units and explained moving the hub would encroach upon residential areas. Council President FONTANA noted this area can be rezoned and agreed the areas does require attention.

<u>Mark Simolaris</u>, 111 First Avenue, questioned how the traffic flow would be affected and whether an analysis has been conducted. Council President FONTANA responded an analysis cannot be conducted as plans are not finalized. Council President FONTANA encouraged everyone to email the Council with any further questions or concerns. Mr. Janota to attend the June Workshop for a presentation.

<u>Janine Tucker</u>, 20 Woodside Avenue, questioned if the Transit Village could be de-designated if unsuccessful, whether businesses must upgrade, how many rentals vs. condominiums, and what amount the Township must invest. Mr. Janota clarified an existing business does not require upgrading and, in his experience, a transit village has not been de-designated. Funds are required at this point only for zoning. He will research Ms. Tucker's other concerns and follow-up.

- 2. RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGE AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR ELECTRICITY GENERATION SUPPPLY SERVICE BY THE PASSAIC COUNTY ENERGY COOPERATIVE- Mr. Cuccia elaborated that the .1019 per kilowatt charge will represent a cost savings on the supply side from 6/1/15-6/1/17.
- 3. BILLBOARD SPECIFICATIONS AND ADVERTISEMENT- Billboard specifications cover the two areas of Route 46 and McBride Avenue and Route 46 and Clove Road according to Mr. Cuccia. He will compare with other municipalities and report back. Upon her review, Ms. London found the specifications to be in compliance and complete with respect to what other towns have required in their RFPs.
- 4. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHIEF FINANCIL OFFICER TO MAKE PROVISIONS TO ALLOW TAX PAYERS TO PAY TAXES VIA CREDIT CAR OR ACH PROCESSING THROUGH THE INTERNET- Mr. Cuccia indicated this resolution is in response to taxpayers' requests. All costs, such as the \$2.50 ACH processing fee, are incurred on the taxpayer, not the municipality.
- 5. RESOLUTION FOR TAX REFUND DUE TO 2012 HOMESTEAD BENEFIT CREDITS BLOCK 83 LOT 1 \$436.32, BLOCK 12 LOT 21 \$483.38- Mr. Cuccia provided an explanation of this resolution.
- 6. RESOLUTION FOR ESTIMATED TAX BILLS 3RD QUARTER 2015 Mr. Cuccia elaborated on this resolution.
- 7. CH. 159 RESOLUTION AMENDING THE 2015 BUDGET FOR THE MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE GRANT Mr. Cuccia described this resolution.

DPW SUPERINTENDENT

1. RECYCLING MARKET BIDS TO BE RECEIVED ON MAY 12, 2015-Mr. Simone to receive bids on 5/12/15 with presentation at the next meeting on 5/18/15. If approved, it will commence 6/1 for a three-year project.

- 2. BASKETBALL HOOP ORDINANCE- Mr. Simone presented sample ordinances in response to discussion at the 4/13/15 meeting.
- 3. CLEANING BIDS TO BE RECEIVED- Upon receipt of the bids for an annual contract, Mr. Simone will request action from the Council next month. He is currently reviewing specifications with the Police Chief.
- 4. ACQUSITION OF DPW VEHICLES AUTHORIZED BY ORDINANCE #1213- A resolution is to be placed on the next agenda for the purchase of the chassis under Somerset County Co-Op. As the membership with Somerset County is not active to date, a resolution awarding the contract is necessary.
- 5. BLUE ACRES PROGRAM- Mr. Simone notified the Council Martha Sapp, from Blue Acres, requested a prioritized list of homes for buyout so mmediate decisions can be made by Blue Acres if funding become available.

TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

- 1. 2015 ROAD PAVING PROGRAM Mr. Simone to evaluate streets and prioritize in collaboration with Mr. Lindsay, and present to the Council. Upon Council approval, proposals will be sought for handicap ramps. Road surfacing commencement will depend on completion of the handicap ramps.
- 2. RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A DEVELOPERS AGREEMENT WITH EDWARD A. SCHUMACHER WITH RESPECT TO A RESIDENTIAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT-Mr. Cuccia explained this resolution, and noted the original development was approved in January of 2012 by the Planning Board.

COUNCIL TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

1. DISCUSSION OF GRANT COMMITTEE- The Council agreed to reinstate the Grant Committee. Council President FONTANA to designate the members at the next meeting by resolution.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was moved by Councilmember Porter, seconded by Councilmember Liess, that the meeting be and it was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Cynthia Kraus
Municipal Clerk