

BOROUGH OF WENONAH

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COUNCIL MINUTES – BUSINESS MEETING

January 23, 2014

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order: 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Thomas A. Lombardo
Wenonah Municipal Building, 1 South West Avenue Wenonah, NJ 08090

Roll Call: Present: Dominy, Howard, Kaeferle, Lader, Norris, Sheppard
Absent:
Also Present: Solicitor Duffield

Open Public Meetings Act Statement:

Adoption of the Agenda: JS/JD AIF

Open to Public JH/JS

Resident Wayne Bender, 12. S. Monroe, asked council how they went about hiring the Chief of Police and if there were any liability issues since he was appointed. Councilman Dominy responded in a lengthy explanation. We first entertained all of our options; the majority of the town wanted to keep the police department. Then we considered having a public safety officer as well as an OIC and decided they were not the best options. We decided that we needed a highly qualified chief of police to run the department and utilized a consultant, Mr. Dave Undercuffler, a retired New Jersey police chief. We revised our ordinance qualifications; then advertised the position. The candidates then submitted applications and were interviewed. The whole process took several months. Some applicants (retired State Police officers) were disqualified due to their inability to enter the pension system. In the end, we hired Joe Harrison. He was the best candidate and borough council stands by him. Once appointed in Jan 2013 we were required to send for a waiver to the PTC at the state office. It took months to receive a response. The attorney general's office indicated Harrison could be the chief of police in Wenonah if he took a leave of absence and when back to school. Councilman Dominy indicated he is our chief of police from the time of appointment till present. No liability was put on the town. We had to go through unforeseen hurdles that we did not anticipate.

Resident Mark Houldsworth, 307 N. Stockton, asked council if the chief of police still gets paid. Councilman Dominy indicated by law he was entitled to be paid as any other law enforcement officer when in training.

Resident Dan Stokes, 300 Lenape Trail, asked council why his taxes went up 19%. Councilman Dominy explained that we were over assessed and many residents appealed their taxes. Approved appeals affect our revenue and our budget. Councilman Norris gave a lengthy explanation of the rate setting process and assessed value rationale for establishing taxes. Councilman Norris explained how to interpret the tax bill and that the schools share of taxes makes up the majority of Wenonah's tax bill. Council indicated that residents should go to the county for more detailed information.

Resident Jack Wesh, 107 N. Clinton, commented that the school pays per student and school taxes are based on the number of students which varies year to year. Mayor Lombardo indicated that it is part of a formula that we cannot control; only the state level can control it.

Close to Public

JS/JD

Motion to approve: November 25, 2013 Special Meeting Minutes
Councilman Dominy, Kaeferle, Lader abstain

JD/PK AIF

Motion to approve: December 26, 2013 Business Meeting Minutes
Councilman Norris abstains

JD/BN AIF

Motion to approve: January 2, 2014 Re-organization Meeting Minutes

JD/JS AIF

Motion to approve: Ordinance No. O-2014-1: 2nd read Amending Salaries of various borough officials and employees for 2014

JD/PK

Motion to Open Public Hearing

JD/PL

No comments

Motion to Close Public Hearing

JS/PL

Roll Call:

Ayes: Dominy, Howard, Kaeferle, Lader, Norris, Sheppard

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion Approved

Motion to approve: Resolution 2014-20 Authorizing the execution of an agreement with the County of Gloucester for use of CDBG grant funds

PK/JD

Roll Call:

Ayes: Dominy, Howard, Kaeferle, Lader, Norris, Sheppard

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion Approved

Motion to approve: Resolution 2014-21 Appointment of Dave Kreck, as Municipal Engineer recognizing his new firm Rodriguez Consulting, LLC

PK/JD

Roll Call:

Ayes: Dominy, Howard, Kaeferle, Lader, Norris, Sheppard

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion Approved

Motion to approve: Resolution 2014-22 Authorizing the Tax Collector to transfer refund/credit of 2013 taxes toward the 1st or 2nd quarter 2014 taxes on Block 49, Lot 5 for Richard Harrow

BN/PK

Roll Call:

Ayes: Dominy, Howard, Kaeferle, Lader, Norris, Sheppard

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion Approved

Motion to approve: Resolution 2014-23 Approving the contract for Bowman & Company
for auditing 2014

BN/PK

Roll Call:

Ayes: Dominy, Howard, Kaeferle, Lader, Norris, Sheppard

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion Approved

Motion to approve: Resolution 2014-24 Approving the contract for Brian J. Duffield for legal services for
2014

PL/JD

Roll Call:

Ayes: Dominy, Howard, Kaeferle, Lader, Norris, Sheppard

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion Approved

Motion to approve: RESOLUTION 2014-25 Approving the contract for McManimon & Scotland for Bond
Counsel services 2014

PL/JD

Roll Call:

Ayes: Dominy, Howard, Kaeferle, Lader, Norris, Sheppard

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion Approved

Motion to approve RESOLUTION 2014-26 Approving the contract for John Moustakas for Prosecutor
services for 2014

PL/JS

Roll Call:

Ayes: Dominy, Howard, Kaeferle, Lader, Norris, Sheppard

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion Approved

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Public Safety & Personnel – J. Dominy - See attached reports.

Public Works – P. Kaeferle - See attached report

Human Services – J. Howard – attended a clean communities meeting this morning at the county; Councilman Howard indicated that Wenonah will be getting money this year and the amount will be out soon. Also, if any group in town wanted to participate with the county for clean community's money to reach out to the county.

Finance & Budget – W. Norris – No report at this time. See attached tax collector and treasurer's report.

Legal & Ordinance – P. Lader – No report at this time.

Public Buildings & Grounds – J. Sheppard – see attached report.

ENGINEERS REPORT:

Engineer Dave Kreck stated that the Barkbridge road project was closed out. We should be receiving the final payment from the state soon. We need to get CDBG out to bid as soon as possible. Regarding the water system, and the complaints and concerns about taste and odor. We will be coordinating tasting of different quadrants to test the taste, smell and the chlorine levels. Regarding well #2 both wells were built in the 1950's. We need to invest in a couple alternatives; mainly replacing one of the wells for now coming in at approximately 1.1 million and or looking into buying bulk water from American Water. We need to see what would be more cost effective. See engineers report for all projects going on in town.

Motion to Approve Disbursements:

PL/BN

Roll Call:

Ayes: Dominy, Howard, Kaeferle, Lader, Norris, Sheppard

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Motion Approved

Motion to approve:

Discussion Items:

Open to Public

JD/PL

Resident John Eastlack, 2 Shawnee Drive, would like to donate a snow blower to our public works department.

Councilman John Howard wanted to enforce the snow removal ordinance. Snow should be removed from sidewalks within 12 hours. Police and property maintenance official should be enforcing this ordinance. Also, any borough official can also enforce. Resident Drew Sole, Lenape Trail, commented that we need to be more aggressive in enforcement of the snow removal ordinance.

Resident Gary Odenbrett N. East Avenue volunteered his house to do a sample water test. Also, will a public question go on November's ballot regarding the light rail stop? Council indicated most likely.

Resident Wayne Bender, 12. S. Monroe, asked council if they were going to disband the police department because it was on an earlier draft agenda. Council indicated that there are no plans at the moment to disband.

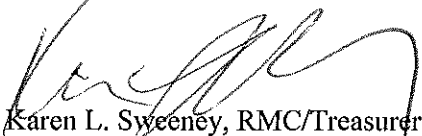
Close to Public

JD/PL

Motion to Adjourn:

JS/JD AIF 8:53pm

Minutes Submitted,


Karen L. Sweeney, RMC/Treasurer

Approved: February 27, 2014