

SOUTH BOUND BROOK BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Borough Council held May 12, 2009 at Robert Morris School, Madison St., South Bound Brook, NJ 08880.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM with a reading of the Open Public Meetings Law Statement by Mayor Terry Warrelmann, the Pledge of Allegiance and a request for a moment of silence to remember those men and women who have given their lives in defense of our country and also those men and women serving in the armed forces at this time, may they be safe.

Roll Call:

Mayor Terry Warrelmann	(Present)
Council President Dennis Quinlan	(Present)
Councilperson Tom Ormosi	(Present)
Councilperson Kathleen Conner	(Present)
Councilperson Caryl Shoffner	(Present)
Councilperson Tony Godleski	(Present)
Councilperson Bob Allenovitch	(Present)

Attending:

Borough Attorney: William Cooper
Borough Engineer: Tom Herits
Chief of Police: William King

Letters and Communications:

- Letter from the South Bound Brook Fire Company inviting the Mayor and Council to attend Memorial Day Ceremony at the Firehouse at 11:00 AM.
- The American Legion will be holding their Memorial Day Service at Memorial Park at 10:30 AM.

Approval of the Minutes:

- Minutes for March Budget Meeting will be voted on next month due to those minutes just being received by the Council.
- **Motion** by Councilperson Godleski to approve the April Meetings Minutes, seconded by Councilperson Ormosi, discussion, all in favor, 5 ayes and 1 abstention (Councilperson Allenovitch). Councilperson Allenovitch was not present for those meetings.

Mayor' Report:

- Update on a letter written to Governor Corzine concerning age restricted housing, specifically two bills that were awaiting his signature. These bills would have eliminated age restricted housing without the Planning Board having any power to appeal it. The Governor has conditionally vetoed these bills and adding wording that the Planning Board would be able to review it and if they felt it was a detriment would be able to vote not to change over to standard housing. This helps us in our trying to keep the Washington Park Project as age restricted.
- Proclamation – National Police Week 2009. The Proclamation recognizes National Police Week 2009 and honors the service and sacrifice of those law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty while protecting our communities and safeguarding our democracy. National Police Week is May 10th to May 16th.

Public Works/Historical Committee (Councilperson Quinlan):

- Thank you to all those who helped make the Battle of Bound Brook Event a large success. This year there were many who helped, participated or observed the Battle and the encampment.
- Grass Pick Up – Grass clippings will no longer be picked up by Public Works. A newsletter was sent out but because of timing and some residents not receiving it, a one week grace period has been decided. Grass will be picked up this week only on the residents regular garbage day. Mayor and Council are trying to find a place for residents to bring their grass clippings. When and if they find a place, residents will be notified.

Redevelopment (Councilperson Ormosi):

- The County Economic Development Committee is looking at ways of helping us with the commercial projects on Main Street.
- We have gotten access to Washington Park and those people who have shown an interest will be contacted so that they can take a look at what is there. Hopefully there are some developers who would be willing and able to finish the project.
- Councilperson Shoffner asked about the used car lot across from the Ukrainian Church. She asked about the sewer situation. The property owner will be tying into the Franklin Township sewer. The property owner is cleaning up the property and making repairs. The owner hopes to open by the end of June.

Finance (Councilperson Godleski):

- Claims Voucher Resolution – Payment of the Bills – **Motion** by Councilperson Godleski for Claims Voucher Resolution in the amount of \$999,171.22, seconded by Councilperson Quinlan, discussion, roll call vote taken, all ayes.

Public Safety Police Department/First Aid Squad (Councilperson Allenovitch):

- Police Department Monthly Report submitted. 188 calls answered, 23 for First Aid, 4 Fire, 18 arrests made and 3 DWI.
- New Police Car is on the road.
- First Aid Squad Monthly Report submitted. 14 calls for 141 miles and 38.1 man hrs.
- First Aid Squad Door to Door Fund Drive the week of May 18th.
- Applying for a grant for a new ambulance was discussed.
- Councilperson Conner asked about looking into a shared service for the First Aid Squad. Borough Clerk explained that we are part of SASSA and do not pay anything at this time to Somerset Medical for coverage during the day. However, he feels that at some point in time we will have to pay and that if we had 24 hour coverage the patient or their insurance company would be billed.
- The discussion about applying for a grant to buy a new ambulance continued. It was decided that the Council would support the grant. **Motion** by Councilperson Allenovitch to support the grant application for a new ambulance, seconded by Councilperson Quinlan, roll call vote taken, all ayes.

Public Safety Fire Department (Councilperson Conner):

- Fire Department Monthly Report submitted. 6 alarms answered, 51.6 man hrs. answering alarms; 9 man hrs. for maintenance of trucks and equipment; 55 man hrs for department training; 22.5 man hrs. for Board of Engineers Meeting and 19 man hrs. for Captain's administrative duties.
- Coin Toss cancelled due to forecast of inclement weather. Coin Toss will be held Friday (rain date).

Recreation/Board of Education (Councilperson Shoffner):

- Met with Recreation Social Committee joined by the Mayor. Discussed the proposals brought to the Council by Sports Director. Social Committee has to decide if they would like help from Donna (Sports Director), charge for arts and crafts or would they like to go two separate ways. They have decided to go two separate ways. They (the Social Committee) will have a Parks and Recreation Program and Donna will have a Sports Program for the children of the Borough. They will advertise for positions for the Summer Parks Program and Donna will advertise for the Sports Program.
- The Easter Program cost \$491.00 and 200 people attended. The Social Committee would like to thank the Police Department, Fire Department and the First Aid Squad for standing by for the event. Once again having it on a weekday brought out more people.
- There was a Board of Education Meeting last night and that's on the Agenda.

Mayor asked the Council to think about changing the structure of the committees. He proposed two person Committees with the Mayor attending and in his absence the Borough Clerk would

attend. This would mean a change to the By-Laws. He read a list of Committees and the names of the persons who would be assigned to them. This proposal comes about because of a concern people have that three member committees with the Mayor attending represents a quorum and should be opened to the public. Mayor asked for this item to be placed on next month's Agenda.

Borough Attorney Report:

- Nothing to report.

Borough Engineer Report:

- Clinton Street contracts need to be signed. Contractor will taken care of any house on Prospect St. which has a problem resulting from the road project.
- Putting in application for the Transportaion Enhancement Program tomorrow.
- Next month applications will be submitted for the DOT Municipal Aid Program.
- Working up garbage specs.
- Meeting on Memorial Park lighting. Seeing what costs would be and what sort of funding we might qualify for.
- Reported on Stormwater Management.
- The Asbestos Survey for the Staat's House came out pretty favorably for the Borough.
- NJ Water Supply Authority want to put some kind of stormwater removal system at the Staat's House. Copies of the report will be made for the Council Members.
- **Motion** by Councilperson Quinlan for Resolution Supporting South Bound Brook Borough's Application to the NJ Department of Transportaion Enhancement Program for a Pedestrian Walkway, Bikepath and Community Village Green Along the Delaware Raritan Canal, seconded by Councilperson Allenovitch, discussion. Councilperson Conner asked if this was a Grant. Yes. Roll call vote taken, all ayes.

At this time Councilperson Shoffner asked if the Borough Engineer had heard anything about using a turbine at the lock for generating energy. Borough Engineer had not heard about it but would check into it.

Chief of Police Report:

- Nothing to report.

Borough Clerk Report:

- Reported a decrease of \$33,000.00 on the 1st quarter bill from Middlesex County Utilities Authority. The estimated amount was \$110,000.00. The Borough Clerk reminded the Council that we had a very dry first quarter. Recently it has been wet so that my change. DPW has been doing a lot of sewer cleaning which helps a great deal.

- Received quotes for an ID machine. The \$1,100.00 machine does what we need it to do. The machine will be kept in the Police Department and they will be in charge of it. **Motion** by Councilperson Conner to accept this quote and buy this ID machine, seconded by Councilperson Godleski, all in favor, all ayes.

Motion by Councilperson Allenovitch to open the meeting to the public, seconded by Councilperson Quinlan, all ayes.

Pat Kane – 205 Cedar Street

- Asked if the elimination of grass pickup and charging for bulk pickup was a question of economics or just having no place to put it. Mayor answered that it is a matter of economics. The Council is trying to cut corners without hurting the majority of residents and without having to layoff Borough employees. The Borough has applied for extraordinary aid from the State as well as the other measures they are taking.

John Salkald – 224 Cedar Street

- Spoke about having a couch picked up and cost was not excessive.

Sean Lambertz – 215 Cedar Street

- Asked about scheduling another composting seminar. If there is enough interest in having that, the Mayor said it could be set up.

Bill Schubert – 12 Von Steuben Lane

- Asked what was the actual cost for picking up grass. He thought the figure given by the Mayor was much too high for just picking up grass. Borough Clerk said the figure includes wear and tear on the truck, gas, man power, etc.

Mrs. Sulligan – Armstrong Street

- Asked where the town takes its grass clippings. The town cuts and leaves the grass, does not take it anywhere.
- Also asked about brush and garden debris. Garden debris can be put out on regular trash day and brush, tree branches, etc. will be picked up on Friday.
- Informed the Council that the street sign on Koehler and Armstrong keeps falling down. DPW will take care of it.

Donna Piazzolla – Sports Director

- Updated the Mayor and Council on the Sports Programs – 6th, 7th & 8th grade softball girls won today, 3rd & 4th graders tied today, the boys soccer team is undefeated and the girls are 1-1-1. She encouraged the public to come out and support the teams.
- Softball, track and field, soccer, basketball will be offered this summer.

Pat Strothers – Somers Place

- Thanked the Mayor and Council for getting the manhole on Somers Place. The headwall will also be repaired.

Sean Lambertz – 215 Cedar Street

- Spoke about fire grant. Council approved the match for that. He also mentioned that fundraising letter has been sent out by the Fire Company. Mayor hopes it gets delivered to each resident not like the Newsletter which seems to have several delivered to one resident and none to another.

Mary Bowers 76 Stewart Street

- Asked if the Public Works Budget was cut since grass pickup and free bulk pickups terminated. Yes every department reduced their operating budgets.
- She asked if employees were getting an increase in salary. As per the Salary Ordinance - wages of Borough Hall employees are frozen. No increase this year.
- Asked about the retail space on Main St. Shouldn't the developer complete the retail space. Mayor explained that there were three entities involved: the Borough, Matzel & Mumford and Route 517. Because of the present economic situation, Route 517 backed out. We have been working with the County to see if we can get someone in to complete the project.

Steve Fry – 244 Maple Ave.

- Asked about the Parking Lot Ordinance. Item is on the Agenda for a second reading at which time the meeting will be opened for public hearing on the Parking Lot Ordinance.

John Salkeld – 224 Cedar Street

- Asked about the Washington Park project – do they pay taxes? Taxes are coming from it but not as if it were a completed project. He also asked about other properties in town that the Borough owns. The Borough is trying to find developers who would be interested in completing the Washington Park project and the retail project on Main Street. As far as the property that was to be for Public Works – it is used to keep equipment on and storing other things.

Pat Kane – Cedar Street

- Asked that the Mayor and Council continue to look for a way for the residents to dispose of grass clippings. Mayor said they will continue to look for a place to take the grass clippings but until this happens residents will have to either mulch or compost their grass clippings.

Andy Carlton – 205 Garfield Street

- Spoke about the Washington Park project. Why doesn't the Borough take it over using Eminent Domain and put the Borough Offices there. The Borough does not have the money to purchase that property and can't go out and bond for 6 or 8 million dollars. Before the discussion got too lengthy the Mayor asked Mr. Carlton if he wanted to discuss this situation he would be willing to stay after the meeting or at some other time. Mr. Carlton ended by saying that the Mayor and council should have a meeting to discuss this project on Elizabeth St.

Motion by Councilperson Quinlan to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Councilperson Conner, all ayes.

Agenda:

Ordinance 2009-006 Traffic Regulations for Robert Morris Parking Lot (Second Reading):

Motion by Councilperson Quinlan for Ordinance 2009-006 – Traffic Regulations for Robert Morris Parking Lot, seconded by Councilperson Godleski.

Motion by Councilperson Godleski to open the meeting for public hearing on this Ordinance, seconded by Councilperson Quinlan, all in favor, all ayes.

Steve Fry – 244 Maple Avenue

Asked about the present signs in the Parking Lot which are not supported by the Ordinance, what's going to happen with them? Are those signs going to be considered designating areas? The intention is to do the regulations by Resolution so that if the school needs to further adjust what they are looking for, it will not need a new ordinance. This is for traffic enforcement. We need the school administration make a decision to buy windshield mirror hangers or stickers indicating staff members who can park in the regular parking spaces. Parents are now taking those spaces and forcing staff to park on the street. Signs will be better positioned.

Motion by Councilperson Conner to close the public hearing, seconded by Councilperson Shoffner, all in favor, all ayes.

Discussion, roll call vote taken, all ayes.

2009 Budget Public Hearing:

Motion by Councilperson Conner to open the meeting for public hearing on the 2009 Budget, seconded by Councilperson Godleski, all in favor, all ayes.

Mary Bowers – 76 Stewart St.

Asked to speak about the School Budget. This is the public hearing for the Municipal Budget. She said she could not speak to this (what was published in the newspaper) because there was not enough detail. The detailed budget is on-line and also available in the Clerks office. She asked if there would be another public hearing. Only if the Budget is amended, then there would be another public hearing on the amendments

Sean Lambertz – Cedar Street

Spoke about the line item for LOSAP. The money in the Budget now is for 3 years prior and 2009. Money put in 2010 Budget will be for 2010.

John Salkeld – Cedar Street

Asked about the Borough looking into private garbage collection. The Borough is

looking to see if money can be saved by having private garbage collection instead of the DPW picking up garbage. There would be no addition cost to the residents, the Borough would pay the fees. This is just for information on cost effectiveness. No decisions have been made.

Mary Bowers – 76 Stewart Street

Spoke about private garbage collection. Private haulers raise their rates frequently and also pick up certain kinds of trash. The Borough would have a contract stating fees and what kind of trash would be picked up. She is not sure this would save any money. The Council does not know this either that is why they are looking into getting information so that a decision could be made one way or the other in the future.

Steve Fry – 244 Maple Avenue

Asked what kind of increase the Budget has as it stands now. The increase is 2.5 cents over last year. The increase is \$80,000.00. Unless we can get some help from the state, there may be additional service reduction and/or layoffs. We've already made cuts; i.e. no salary increase for our non-union personnel, no grass pickup and charging for bulk pickup.

Andy Carlton – Garfield Avenue

Reminded the Council that originally the Fire Department was asking for a stipend which would have been less money. Councilperson Quinlan said he was afraid that LOSAP would not get on the ballot that is why he pushed for it. The \$80,000.00 for LOSAP is just a small part of the Municipal Budget. The biggest problem we have is that the Governor does not want towns under 5,000 people to exist by cutting out state aid and the economy is in the tank. Projects we thought would come to fruition are languishing. Those are the reasons the Budget is the way it is.

Unknown Speaker

How much is one tax point? \$34,000.00 + = one tax point. Where does the taxes from Canal Crossing go. They are part of revenue and put in the Budget. \$897,000.00 was put in the Budget from Canal Crossing taxes in 2008 and 2009. The Governor cut our aid 25% last year.

Marge Eickhorst – Reid Street

Commented on the Pilot Program. She asked about the figures used for 2008 and 2009. We collected \$966,025.00 in 2008 and put in \$897,000.00. The Auditors suggested that number because what you collect may fluctuate. The difference goes into surplus to help reduce taxes. There may be a clerical error on the Auditors part with regards to surplus over the last couple of years. Clerk will discuss this with the Auditors.

Motion by Councilperson Shoffner to close the public hearing on the 2009 Busget, seconded by Councilperson Conner, all in favor, all ayes.

School Budget Resolution:

Motion by Councilperson Godleski to approve School Budget Resolution in the amount of \$5,166,471.00 necessary to be raised by taxation for 2009-2010, seconded by Councilperson Shoffner, discussion. Councilperson Shoffner feels that in the future we should hire an independent auditor to look over a defeated School Budget and help us to have the right information in order to make the right decision as far as cuts are concerned. Mayor agrees that this is a good idea. Roll call vote taken, 4 ayes and 2 abstentions (Councilpersons Quinlan and Conner). The Council cut \$90,875.00 from the School Budget.

At this time the Mayor thanked those Council members and CFO Randy Bahr for their work on the defeated School Budget.

Councilperson Allenovitch had to leave the meeting at this time. (9:50 pm)

Overnight Parking:

Chief King did a survey of overnight parking on Borough streets April 30th, May 1st and May 3rd. Some streets could possibly have problems getting emergency vehicles to pass through. Jerome, Howard, Bathgate are pretty tight. Armstrong St. is a problem. One side of the street parking may be recommended for those streets that are narrower. Police Department will make recommendations.

LOSAP List:

Motion by Councilperson Conner to accept the LOSAP List of participants, seconded by Councilperson Ormosi, discussion, roll call vote taken, 5 ayes 1 abstention (Councilperson Shoffner).

June Agenda Meeting:

Motion by Councilperson Conner to move the June 2nd Agenda Meeting to June 9th at 7:00 PM at the Robert Morris School, seconded by Councilperson Conner, discussion, all in favor, all ayes. The June Regular Meeting will follow at 7:30 PM.

Facade Improvement Program:

Motion by Councilperson Ormosi to extend the Façade Improvement Program along Main St. to the border of South Bound Brook, seconded by Councilperson Quinlan, discussion, all in favor, all ayes.

Municipal Public Defender:

Motion by Councilperson Conner to appoint Thomas R. Basta as Public Defender, seconded by Councilperson Ormosi, discussion, all in favor, all ayes.

Ordinance 2009-008 Private Storm Drain Inlet Retrofitting (First Reading):

Motion by Councilperson Quinlan for Ordinance 2009-008 – Private Storm Drain Inlet Retrofitting within the Borough of South Bound Brook, seconded by Councilperson Conner, discussion. All in favor, all ayes.

Ordinance 2009-007 Refuse Containers/Dumpsters Ordinance (First Reading):

Motion by Councilperson Quinlan for Ordinance 2009-007 – Refuse Containers/Dumpsters Ordinance for the Borough of South Bound Brook, seconded by Councilperson Ormosi, discussion. Councilperson Conner asked if all containers in public places have to have covers and no holes in them. If they are leaking they would need to be replaced. Who is in charge of checking these containers – Bill Boyle is. All in favor, all ayes.

Motion by Councilperson Quinlan to open the meeting to the public, seconded by Councilperson Conner, all ayes.

Sean Lambertz- Cedar Street

- Since the LOSAP List has been approved, can the money be withdrawn. CFO will have to be asked when the money can be distributed.

Marie Scannell – Barber Blvd.

- Asked how someone (Councilperson Allenovitch) who was not on the Committee to reduce the defeated School Budget could vote on that tonight. He was satisfied with the recommendations of the Committee and therefore felt comfortable voting aye.

Dennis Eickhorst – 21 Reid Street

- Spoke about the spirit of the Open Public Meetings Law.

Donna Piazzolla – 136 Cedar Street

- Spoke about residents attending the Board of Education Meetings and finding out what is going on and the process used to create the Budget. Residents can voice their opinions at regular school board meetings. This helps the Board know what the residents are thinking.

Marge Eickhorst – 21 Reid Street

- Spoke about how rudely she had been treated at the Board of Education Budget Meeting. Mayor answered by saying if you want to change things then people have to run for a seat on the Board and also attend their meetings.

Adjournment:

Having completed the peoples' business, a **Motion** to adjourn was made by Councilperson Quinlan, seconded by Councilperson Ormosi, all in favor, all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 10:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald E. Kazar, Borough Clerk