

SOUTH BOUND BROOK BOROUGH COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Borough Council held on June 8, 2010 at Robert Morris School, 122 Elizabeth Street, South Bound Brook, NJ 08880.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM with a reading of the Open Public Meetings Law Statement by Mayor Terry Warrelmann, the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence requested by the Borough Clerk in remembrance of those we honor on Memorial Day.

Roll Call:

Mayor Terry Warrelmann	(Present)
Council President Dennis Quinlan	(Present)
Councilperson Tom Ormosi	(Present)
Councilperson Caryl Shoffner	(Present)
Councilperson Tony Godleski	(Present)
Councilperson Peter Dykes	(Present)
Councilperson Harold Kildow	(Present)

Attending:

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

Letters and Communications:

- Thank you note from Donna and Tony Godleski for the floral arrangement and condolences sent by the Borough.
- Thank you letter from the Senior Citizens Community Club for the continuing financial support of the Borough Council.

Approval of the Minutes:

- **Motion** by Councilperson Ormosi for approval of the May Meetings Minutes, seconded by Councilperson Dykes, all in favor, all ayes.

Borough Clerk requested that Items 3 & 4 be moved up from the Agenda Portion of the meeting to this portion of the meeting.

Redevelopment Resolution:

- **Motion** by Councilperson Ormosi to approve Resolution designating 107-109 Elizabeth Street as an area in need of redevelopment, seconded by Councilperson Quinlan, discussion. Councilperson Shoffner asked about the block and lot numbers. Each unit is considered a block and lot. She asked when the property was vacated. The property was vacated in or about 1998. Roll call vote taken, all ayes.

Ordinance 2010-005 - Redevelopment Ordinance (First Reading):

- **Motion** by Councilperson Ormosi to approve Ordinance 2010-005 an Ordinance adopting the Redevelopment Plan for 107-109 Elizabeth Street, seconded by Councilperson Quinlan, discussion. The Attorney for the Bank spoke about the signage. Roll call vote taken, all ayes.

Mayor's Report:

- Spoke about finding a replacement for the Bank of America. There is a Bank that has shown interest in moving into town.
- Apologized in advance to the Council and the public that he may have to leave the meeting before it is adjourned. Council President Quinlan will take over at that time.

Public Works/Historical (Councilperson Quinlan):

- Successful walk through at the Staat's House by the bidders for the combination 2005 Somerset County Grant and the 2006 State of NJ Historic Trust Grant. Bids are due June 30th at the Borough Clerk's Office in Borough Hall.
- Asked about the mechanism for contractors to be paid for the asbestos remediation. Borough Clerk will look into the situation and talk with the CFO.

Public Safety (Police Department)/Redevelopment (Councilperson Ormosi):

- Police Department Monthly Report for May submitted.
- Walked around the Washington Park property, spoke to some of the people. Amboy Bank has been cooperative taking care of some issues on the property.
- **Motion** by Councilperson Ormosi to approve the appointment of Brooke Manley and Christine Hubacek as members of the South Bound Brook Office of Emergency Management, seconded by Councilperson Quinlan, discussion. These two new members are volunteers. All in favor, all ayes.

Finance (Councilperson Godleski):

- Claims Voucher Resolution – Payment of the Bills – **Motion** by Councilperson Godleski for Claims Voucher Resolution in the amount of \$556,827.17, seconded by Councilperson Ormosi, discussion. Councilperson Shoffner commented that the

amount was smaller than usual. Councilperson Godleski answered that the largest portion was still the school. Roll call vote, all ayes.

- Overpayment of Taxes Resolution – **Motion** by Councilperson Godleski for approval of Overpayment of Taxes Resolution for 49 Swing Bridge Lane, 2010 PILOT in the amount of \$1,817.59, seconded by Councilperson Dykes, discussion. Councilperson Shoffner asked how this was overpaid. Explanation: either the mortgage company paid and then the resident pays or vice versa that's how it becomes overpaid. Roll call vote taken, all ayes.

Public Safety-Fire Department (Councilperson Dykes):

- Fire Department Monthly Report for May:
12 alarms answered; 192 man hrs. answering alarms; 43 ½ man hrs. maintenance of equipment and trucks; 76 ½ man hrs. Department training; 12 man hrs. Board of Engineers Meeting; 14 ½ man hrs. Captain's administrative duties; 340.7 total man hrs.
- Thank you to Mayor Warrelmann and Councilperson Ormosi for attending the Memorial Day Ceremony. Councilperson Shoffner (Firefighter) was also in attendance.

Personnel/Board of Education (Councilperson Kildow):

- Everything covered previously in the Redevelopment discussion.

Recreation – Social/Sports - (Councilperson Shoffner):

- 10 applications for the Summer Parks Program have been received. Committee will meet to discuss the applications.
- Softball team is undefeated – one more game tomorrow.
- \$27,000 of the \$45,000 grant money has been spent. Waiting to see how much has been accounted for and what hasn't.

Borough Attorney:

- Nothing to report.

Borough Engineer:

- Lighting for Canal Walkway waiting on PSE&G.
- DEP inspected sanitary sewer collection system and we passed.
- G1 Holding wants to do some work at the Research Building. Referred them to Building Inspector to see if they need any special permits.
- Bank has been very responsive to our requests for cleaning up the property on Elizabeth Street.

Borough Clerk:

- **Motion** by Councilperson Ormosi to appoint Councilperson Godleski as a non-voting member of the Bound Brook/South Bound Brook Municipal Alliance for 1 year, seconded by Councilperson Dykes, discussion. All in favor, all ayes.
- Memo from Borough Hall employees requesting Summer Business Hours during June, July and August. Weeks in which a furlough day is assigned will not have summer hours. Those affected employees are: Arleen Lih, Rachel Dupree, Maria Caemmerer and Marianne Manley. **Motion** by Councilperson Dykes approving summer business hours as requested, seconded by Councilperson Shoffner, discussion. Councilperson Ormosi asked about coverage. No one will be there from 2:00 PM to 4:30 Pm on Friday. The hours will be posted at Borough Hall and on the web site. Court will be open until 3:30 PM and the Police Dept. Administrative Assistant will also be there until 3:30 PM. All in favor 5 ayes, opposed 1 nay (Councilperson Godleski).
- As you know Queen's Bridge is closed at night from 9:00 PM until 5:00 AM. At the end of the month Queen's Bridge will be closed 24 hours while flood control gates are installed.

Motion by Councilperson Shoffner to open the meeting to the public, seconded by Councilperson Ormosi, all in favor, all ayes.

Kathy Conner – Louis Avenue

- Asked about overtime hours for the Police Department. Overtime in May was \$9,936.52. Total for 2010 so far is \$24,850.29. That is one of the things being looked at to see if we need another officer. We are down one officer and one officer is on maternity leave. 18 sick days, 16 vacation days and one personal day were taken in May. Those shifts needed to be covered.

Marianne Manley – Prospect Street

- Spoke about the tree and the ivy at the Borough Hall parking lot. Bird droppings are ruining the paint on the employees vehicles. She would like the tree cut down and the ivy removed. Councilperson Quinlan will talk to the DPW supervisor.

Mary Bowers – Stewart Street

- Asked about the PILOT Program. How many years does it go on. Up to a maximum of 25 years. As a unit is sold the PILOT is 2% of the selling price and the length of the PILOT picks up from that point.
- How do you intend to stop businesses from moving out of town and how do you get new ones to come in. Council is always looking to get new business into town..Right now people are either not financially able to invest in a new business or they are being cautious with their money.
- Spoke about remediation at the Elizabeth Street property. No remediation needs to be done – it was all taken care of by the original purchaser.

Jack Salkeld – Cedar Street

- Cars are still speeding along Cedar Street. Police have been patrolling there. Other ways to control speeding are being looked into i.e. speed tables to slow cars down.

Donna Piazzolla – Cedar Street

- Asked if there is a weight limit for vehicles using Cedar Street. There are tractor trailers using Cedar Street. Borough Clerk thinks the weight limit may be 4 tons. It will be looked into.

Motion by Councilperson Ormosi to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Councilperson Godleski, all in favor, all ayes.

At this time the Borough Clerk asked for a 10 minute recess so he could close the polls as this is Primary Day.

Motion by Councilperson Quinlan to take a 10 minute recess, seconded by Councilperson Ormosi, all in favor, all ayes. (8:15 PM)

Agenda:

There was a request to move up Agenda Item #8 Furlough Day Discussion.

Furlough Day Discussion:

Eight furlough days have been included in the 2010 Budget. The furlough days were listed in a Memo from the Borough Clerk to the Mayor and Council. The days are as follows: June 28th, July 2nd, August 6th, September, 3rd, October 8th, November 1st, November 24th and December 27th. The December day may have to be changed. This is also the recommendation of the Finance Committee. **Motion** by Councilperson Godleski to approve the recommendations of the Finance Committee for furlough days, seconded by Councilperson Dykes, discussion. Council Members comments are as follows:

Councilperson Dykes added that if by some chance funding is received from the State that furlough days be rescinded.

Councilperson Quinlan said the State keeps passing mandates without funding any of them. Therefore we get caught in this crunch.

Councilperson Kildow said he feels from now on we pay as we go, not deferring these obligations, particularly pensions. As to the necessity of furloughs, it is unfortunate but it does seem the fairest way to spread it around.

Councilperson Shoffner regrets having to furlough people and having to raise taxes. She offered to give up her salary in order to increase the money in the Budget.

Councilperson Ormosi feels like everyone else, not wanting to do this furlough days) but having to. The amount of money short in the Budget was hundreds of thousands of dollars that had to be made up in this Budget. This is going to be a long term process. It is not going to be fixed in one year. With reducing expenditures we are helping to keep

taxes as low as we can possibly keep them. Nobody likes furloughs, nobody likes cuts in services but this is what has to be done to keep taxes down. Councilperson Godleski asked for clarification on a comment made by Councilperson Dykes referring to rescinding of furlough days if any funding comes into the Borough from any source. Councilperson Godleski doesn't see that happening. He also stated that since he took over Finance he has always tried to balance the needs of the taxpayer and what is needed to run the Borough. This was the only way to keep the taxes down. A **Motion** was made by Councilperson Godleski to open the meeting to the public for discussion of this item, seconded by Councilperson Ormosi, all in favor, all ayes.

Maria Caemmerer – 12 Main Street – Deputy Tax Collector

- Asked who was on the Personnel Committee – Councilpersons Kildow, Dykes and Quinlan. She said that the employees didn't need to be at the meeting tonight if the Personnel Committee had agreed to meet with them. The employees met with the Borough Clerk but felt he didn't have all the answers. Borough Clerk informed them that they should be meeting with the Finance Committee. The furlough days are a finance issue. She also asked what happens if a furlough day falls during tax collection time. The grace period would have to be extended one day. The same as if there was a holiday during tax collection time.
- She asked the Borough Clerk to let the residents know that employees pay 5% of their income towards their pension. Police pay 8.5%.
- Has every program been looked at in order to prevent furlough days. All programs have been looked at. Every program and department has had some sort of cut in funding.

Christina Ward – Police Department Admin. Ass't.

- She asked if an Officer has to do her job on a furlough day – how is that going to save money? Most likely if no one is in Borough Hall and someone needs assistance they will have to use the call box to request an Officer to come in from the road.

Marianne Manley – Borough Employee

- She thinks all non-essential programs should have been cut. She said the Summer Park Program was poorly attended last year and should not have been funded for this year. Councilperson Shoffner said that other programs have been cut in order to fund the Park Program. Other means of funding are being looked into i.e. charging a fee for participation. Ms. Manley will be monitoring attendance this summer. As far as Community Day is concerned, it's funds have been cut back. Council feels Community Day is a morale booster for the town. She feels all programs should be cut before furloughing employees.

Kathy Conner – Louis Avenue

- Are all employees involved in the furloughing? There are 21 employees being furloughed and the savings for 8 furlough days will be \$23,685.90.

Mary Bowers – Stewart Street

- Asked about furlough days coming during tax time. Will there be an extension of the

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grace period? Borough Clerk said the Council could vote to do that.

Todd Robbins – Public Works Employee

- Asked if the School Board had been asked to help us. Can't they take back some of the raise they gave to teachers. The teachers would have to agree to reopen their contract in order for changes to be made. It was explained that the School is separate from the Municipality. They have their budget and we have ours.

Kathey Conner – Louis Avenue

- Asked if the teachers were asked to reopen their contract. Borough Clerk said yes that they had been asked but nothing happened.

Rachel Dupree – Finance/Building Department Employee

- She asked if it had been taken into consideration that the Borough would not be paying her for a couple of months during her Maternity Leave. It's always possible that at the end of the year there may be extra money to transfer into different accounts and we might be able to cancel one of the furlough days.

Kathy Conner – Louis Avenue

- Because of the furlough days does that mean that there won't be any layoffs. There is a Discussion of Layoff item on the Agenda.

Councilperson Kildow spoke with regards to Todd Robbins' question about the School Board. The Council gave them less than half of what they were asking for. He specifically asked them to consider the Governor's option for teachers to take a pass on a pay raise. This was off the table. A lot of money goes to the Board of Education and next year he wants to see a decline in that Budget.

Motion by Councilperson Quinlan to close the meeting to the public on this topic, seconded by Councilperson Ormosi, all in favor, all ayes.

Roll call vote taken on the motion and second for eight furlough days, all ayes.

Ordinance 2010-002 Motor Vehicle Ordinance:

Tabled until July.

Ordinance 2010-006 Bond Ord. Jerome/Howard Aves. (First Reading):

Motion by Councilperson Godleski for Bond Ordinance to authorize the reconstruction of Jerome Avenue and Howard Avenue, by and for the Borough of South Bound Brook to appropriate the sum of \$600,000.00 to pay the cost thereof, to make a down payment, to appropriate State Grants, to authorize the issuance of bonds to finance such appropriation and to provide for the issuance of Bond Anticipation Notes in anticipation of the issuance of such bonds,

seconded by Councilperson Ormosi, discussion. Councilperson Shoffner asked about curbing. She was advised to ask about that when the plan is established. Roll call vote taken, 5 ayes and 1 abstention (Councilperson Shoffner).

Ordinance 2010-004 Funding Bond Ord. (First Reading):

Motion by Councilperson Godleski for Bond Ordinance to reauthorize the making of Various public improvements in, by and for the Borough of South Bound Brook and to authorize the issuance of bonds not exceeding \$2,572,000 to fund bond anticipation notes issued or authorized to be issued for such public improvements, seconded by Councilperson Dykes, discussion. Councilperson Shoffner wanted to know if this included the fire truck. The truck is lease and purchase through the County. The fire truck lease will come off in two and a half years. Roll call vote taken all ayes.

ABC Resolution:

Motion by Councilperson Ormosi for Liquor License Renewal Resolution for the following named applicants:

South Brook Corporation T/A South Side Grille
Meera Trading Corp. T/A Keauszer's Food and Liquor
Ovations Restaurant and Bar LLC
Vinayak Group Inc. T/A Main Street Liquor and Bar

Seconded by Councilperson Godleski, discussion. Councilperson Shoffner asked why Main St. Liquor & Bar are renewing at this time? They are in compliance this year with all the rules and regulations. Roll call vote taken, all ayes.

1st Baptist Church Request for Use of Maple Ave. Park:

Motion by Councilperson Ormosi granting the 1st Baptist Church permission to use Maple Ave. Park with the stipulation that the request be turned over to the Recreation Director so she can do the scheduling, seconded by Councilperson Shoffner with the same stipulation, all in favor, all ayes.

Sign Ordinance Discussion:

Sign Ordinance needs to be reviewed and some changes made. The Redevelopment Committee will look into this. In the mean time the violations that have been issued will not be enforced for the time being. **Motion** by Councilperson Ormosi to suspend enforcement of the violations of the Sign Ordinance until the July 13th Meeting, seconded by Councilperson Dykes, all ayes. Councilperson Dykes also suggested that the Redevelopment Committee meet with the business community to listen and discuss their needs.

Councilperson Quinlan requested a five minute recess so that the Borough Clerk could close the polls and report on the Primary Election. We will be back in session at 9:35 PM.

Discussion of Elimination of the Job Title (Laborer) in the DPW Dept.:

When the garbage collection was privatized in January TO SAVE THE Borough money it was thought that a person would have to be laid off. Councilperson Quinlan felt that with the freeing up of man power many jobs that had been neglected could now be attended to. Councilperson Godleski was not aware that a position was going to be eliminated. He feels if there is to be a layoff then it should go by seniority. It was the recommendation of the Public Works Director that the position of laborer be eliminated. After a lengthy discussion about Rice Notices, seniority etc. a **Motion** was made by Councilperson Dykes to accept the Public Works Director's recommendation to eliminate the laborer's position. There was no second. Councilperson Ormosi made a **Motion**, that everyone in Public Works be Riced and we have another meeting, seconded by Councilperson Shoffner. The original motion was modified to reflect that the topic of elimination of position or reduction in force would be discussed at the June 22, 2010 meeting. This modification was accepted by Councilpersons Ormosi and Shoffner. Roll call vote taken, all ayes.

Yard Waste Discussion:

Tabled until the June 22nd meeting.

Motion by Councilperson Quinlan to open the meeting to the public, seconded by Councilperson Godleski, all in favor, all ayes.

Sharon Parks –

- Wants to know why one of the five employees with CDL is not considered for layoff. She doesn't understand why someone with 21 years of seniority would be let go before someone with less time in the Department. Councilperson Quinlan tried to explain that he and the rest of the DPW Committee are taking great pains to try to do this properly.

Mary Bowers – Stewart St.

- She asked if there was only one Laborer in town. Yes. She also wanted to know why Not let one of the CDL employees go. Do we really need 5? Yes. We need coverage if someone is out sick or on vacation. She also wanted to know if there would be any new hires in the future. The Council has no intention of expanding the staff. There may have to be more furlough days, less hours or even layoffs.

Kathy Conner – Louis Avenue

- She thinks that the Public Works Department could make bigger cuts in their budget in order to prevent a layoff. She thinks that the laborer without the CDL is being punished because he doesn't have a CDL.

Jack Salkeld – Cedar Street

- Asked if DPW had a contract with the Borough. DPW have a union but they do not, as of yet, have a contract with the Borough. He feels that seniority should count when considering a layoff.

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Steve Fry – Maple Avenue

- Wanted to know how much money would be saved if the Supervisor was not allowed to have the Department truck 24/7? No answer given.

Motion by Councilperson Shoffner to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Councilperson Dykes, all in favor, all ayes.

Adjournment:

Motion by Councilperson Shoffner to adjourn, seconded by Councilperson Dykes, all in favor, all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 10:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald E. Kazar, Borough Clerk

