

October 5, 2005

The work session of the Riverton Borough Council was held on the above date. Mayor Martin presiding.

PRESENT: Council members Daniel, Villari, Smyth (arrived at 7:02pm), Gilmore, Cesaretti, Alls-Moffatt and Solicitor Bruce M. Gunn

The following statement was read by Mayor Martin:

Public notice of this meeting, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, has been given by the Municipal Clerk in the following manner:

(a) Having written notification of all meetings to be held in 2005 published in the Burlington county Times on December 29, 2004 and

(b) Posting written notice on the official bulletin board on January 4, 2005

ORDINANCE 14-05

AN ORDINANCE MAKING PROVISIONS OF SUBTITLE ONE OF TITLE 39 WITH VARIOUS TRAFFIC REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO THE FARMERS AND MECHANICS BANK AND REGULATING THE USE OF SAID ROADWAYS, STREET, DRIVEWAYS AND PARKING LOTS BY MOTOR VEHICLES

(IN FULL IN ORDINANCE BOOK)

The above Ordinance was read by title only for the second time by Mr. Gilmore, who moved for its adoption. This was seconded by Mr. Cesaretti. At this time, Mayor Martin opened this portion of the meeting to the public for any comment on this ordinance. There being no comment on this Ordinance, Mayor Martin closed this portion of the meeting to the public. A poll vote was then taken. Dr. Daniel aye, Mrs. Villari aye, Mr. Smyth absent, Mr. Gilmore aye, Mr. Cesaretti aye and Mrs. Alls-Moffatt aye.

Possible Ordinances for consideration: a. Amending Chapter 99 Re: Recycling.

Mrs. Villari reported that Council had previously been given the suggested amendments to be made to our recycling ordinance by the County for review. After a short discussion, it was the general consensus that our Solicitor prepare the Ordinance for consideration at next week's meeting. **B. Amending Chapter 22 to establish the form of applications for the informal review of concept plans for Site Plans and Sub-Divisions.** Council reviewed a "draft" Ordinance that was prepared by the Planning Board's attorney for Council's review. We presently do not have anything on our code book regarding this issue. After a short discussion it was the general consensus to place this Ordinance on next week's agenda for consideration. Mrs. Alls-Moffatt then raised the issue that some applicants do not submit their required escrow fees in a timely fashion. This creates problems when we have to pay the Board's professionals for their time spent on the respective application. Mrs. Alls-Moffatt inquired as to whether we could incorporate language regarding the required escrow fees into this ordinance. Solicitor Gunn responded that he felt that this was a Planning Board policy issue. He suggested this issue be brought up at the next Board meeting so that the Board's attorney can help address this issue.

Streets & Roads Issues: a. Update Re: 2005 Road Program (Fulton Street). Mrs.

Villari reported that our engineer for this project, Remington, Vernick & Arango has advertised for the receipt of bids. The bids will be opened on Wednesday, October 12th at 10:00am. Council will be kept informed. **b. OSHA compliance issues at the Sewer Plant and Pump House.** Mrs. Villari reported that OSHA did a general inspection of the plant and pump house and we were cited for some violations. Mrs. Villari reported that our Sewer Engineer, T&M Associates has submitted a not to succeed proposal for Professional Services in the amount of \$11,364.00 to assist the Borough in this regard. However, Mrs. Villari reported that we are working closely with OSHA representatives to remedy the problems ourselves. Mrs. Villari reported that she will keep Council apprised of this situation and obtain their authorization if there is a need to utilize our Engineer for this work.

Review of proposals received for revaluation/reassessment. Mr. Smyth reported that we had sent out five proposals for this project and we received only one. Renwick & Associates of Maple Shade, New Jersey submitted a proposal in the amount of \$125,000.00. Mr. Smyth stated that he thought this figure was high. Mrs. Alls-Moffatt concurred with Mr. Smyth. Mr. Smyth stated that he would review this proposal with our Tax Assessor. Council will be kept informed.

Update Re: Smart Growth Grant. Mrs. Alls-Moffatt, Mr. Gunn and Tamara Lee, Planner recently attended meeting with representatives of the Office of Smart Growth to review the Borough's Smart Growth Grant project on redevelopment. Mrs. Alls-Moffatt stated that Council had previously informed the Office of Smart Growth that their modifications to the revised scope of work for this project were not acceptable. Mrs. Alls-Moffatt further stated that this meeting was set up to review the status of the grant and to determine if the monies could be utilized for another project. Mr. Gunn commented that he got a sense from the meeting that the Office of Smart Growth wants to work with us. They are asking Riverton to come up with another suggestion. Mr. Gunn stated that it must be a planning related subject. Mr. Gunn stated that some examples would be to do a parking study in town or to possibly study what commercial uses we would have in town. Our Planner would have to write a new scope of work. Mayor Martin commented that he thought our Planning Board should recommend to Council what we should consider. It was the general consensus to ask the Planning Board to do this.

Mrs. Alls-Moffatt reported that during the course of the meeting, our Planner had indicated that Riverton is only seven tenths of a mile and we are required to have nineteen COAH obligations. Ms. Lee questioned where we would place these obligations. Mrs. Alls-Moffatt reported that COAH had been under the impression that Riverton was a seven mile Borough. Mrs. Alls-Moffatt stated that after this was clarified, COAH indicated that they would honor our previous vacant land adjustment amount. Mrs. Alls-Moffatt commented that this was certainly a relief.

Mrs. Alls-Moffatt also reported that she inquired at this meeting as to whether monies would be available to renovate and rehabilitate the Post Office. Mrs. Alls-Moffatt stated that she was informed that the Post Office is considered a historic building and that there is potential for a million dollar, tax free, and interest free bonding for this purpose. Mrs. Alls-Moffatt also stated that there may also be other grant monies available for this potential project. Mrs. Alls-Moffatt commented that this was very good news.

Emergency Management Coordinator (three year appointment.) The Clerk reported that Tom Schneider's appointment has expired. Mr. Schneider presently receives no compensation for this position. The Clerk reported that Mr. Schneider is now asking Council to reconsider this. Mr. Gunn stated that he had also served in this capacity for many years and was never received compensation. Mr. Gunn further stated that there may be reasons why Mr. Schneider is asking Council to consider this. Mr. Gunn further stated that Council could appoint Mr. Schneider until the end of the year and then consider his monetary request during next year's budget process. Public Works Manager Scott Reed stated that the work Mr. Schneider does is very important. There is a lot of paper work and meetings that need to be attended. A discussion ensued. After conferring with our Solicitor, it was the consensus of Council to appoint Mr. Schneider to this position for the remainder of this year. Councilwoman Villari was designated to meet with Mr. Schneider regarding his request and to obtain information on his work load.

RESOLUTION 102-05

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF TOM SCHNEIDER AS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR FOR THE BOROUGH OF RIVERTON FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2005 (IN FULL IN RESOLUTION BOOK)

The above Resolution was read by title only by Mr. Gilmore, who moved for its adoption. This was seconded by Mr. Cesaretti. A poll vote was then taken. Dr. Daniel aye,

Mrs. Villari aye, Mr. Smyth aye, Mr. Gilmore aye, Mr. Cesaretti aye and Mrs. Alls-Moffatt aye.

RESOLUTION 103-05

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DESIGNATION OF SUSQUEHANNA PATRIOT BANK-CINNAMINSON BRANCH-AS AN ADDITIONAL DEPOSITORY FOR THE BOROUGH'S MUNICIPAL COURT ACCOUNTS FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2005 AND AMENDING THE BOROUGH'S CASH MANAGEMENT PLAN TO ALSO INCLUDE SUSQUEHANNA PATRIOT BANK-CINNAMINSON BRANCH AS AN ADDITIONAL DEPOSITORY (IN FULL IN RESOLUTION BOOK)

The above Resolution was read by title only by Dr. Daniel, who moved for its adoption. This was seconded by Mr. Smyth. A poll vote was then taken. Dr. Daniel aye, Mrs. Villari aye, Mr. Smyth aye, Mr. Gilmore aye, Mr. Cesaretti aye and Mrs. Alls-Moffatt aye.

Request from the Architectural Review Committee Re: Clarification on the Architectural Guidelines codified by Council for the Neighborhood and General Business Districts. Council reviewed and discussed this issue. Solicitor Gunn commented that Council did adopt an Ordinance regarding Architectural Guidelines in 2003. However, Mr. Gunn stated that an applicant coming before the Zoning or Planning Board can request that a variance or other relief be given in a particular case. It is at the Board's discretion to thoroughly review such a request before rendering a decision. It was the consensus that a letter be sent to the Architectural Review Committee that outlines the Solicitor's comments.

Motion to approve request from Sacred Heart Church to hold raffles. The Clerk reported that Sacred Heart Church has submitted the required paperwork and fees to the Borough to hold raffles at the Church in November. Council needs to approve this request before it is forwarded to Legalized Games of Chance for their review.

Mr. Gilmore moved that we approve Sacred Heart Church's application to hold raffles in November. This was seconded by Mrs. Alls-Moffatt. A poll vote was then taken. Dr. Daniel aye, Mrs. Villari aye, Mr. Smyth abstained, Mr. Gilmore aye, Mr. Cesaretti abstained and Mrs. Alls-Moffatt aye.

Update Re: Economic Development Committee. Mrs. Villari reported that the committee would like to have a bank account that they can deposit monies received from various fund raisers and different events that will produce funds. Solicitor Gunn suggested that we should wait until next year's budget to consider incorporating any kind of income into the 2006 budget. Mrs. Villari reported that the committee is looking into incorporating local business information in our Borough Directory for next year. The committee will be seeking sponsors for the businesses that want to advertise by placing an ad in the directory. The Clerk provided an overview of the directory process and what will be required to keep everything organized. The Clerk reported that the directory is hand delivered to all properties in town by the cub scouts. The Borough makes a donation to the scouts for their efforts. Mrs. Villari stated that she would work closely with the Clerk to make sure all of the committee's information is submitted before the end of this year. **Gary Ford, 311 Bank Avenue**, a member of the Economic Development Committee, commented that they would be submitting a 2006 budgetary request for Council's consideration. Mr. Ford also commented that the Committee is going to look into the possibility of getting a grant writer.

Mrs. Villari asked if the Planning Board and Zoning Board had a chance to review Chapter 128-64-Off Street Parking and make a recommendation to Council about possible changes. Mrs. Villari commented that two business owners had asked Council to amend this Ordinance for existing buildings only. Mayor Martin stated that this matter would go to the Planning Board this month. Mr. Gilmore stated that it is his opinion that we need to have the proper protection for added parking so that developers coming into town will know what is expected of them

Preliminary agenda for October 12. The Clerk reviewed this with the Governing Body.

National Historic resources Grant. Mr. Gilmore reported that he was looking into applying for this grant. Mr. Gilmore reported that this would pertain to the placement of a trail in the park. The due date for the submission of the application is December 15th. Council will be kept informed.

Eagle Donation. Mayor Martin announced that Tracey Weitzell purchased the eagle at the Riverton train station and would now like to donate it back to Riverton. Mr. Gilmore volunteered to take care of speaking and meeting with Ms. Weitzell when he returns from vacation. The Clerk will contact Ms. Weitzell to thank her for the donation and to let her know that Mr. Gilmore will contact her soon. Mr. Gilmore commented that we have to decide where to place the eagle. New Jersey Transit has indicated that they do not want any of the eagles placed on their property. Council will be kept informed.

Police Contract Negotiations. Mr. Cesaretti reported that the Public Safety Committee has met twice with the Riverton Police Association to begin negotiations on the new contract. Mr. Cesaretti stated that the present contract expires on December 31 of this year. Mr. Cesaretti further stated that the committee is not at the point where they are ready to come back to Council for review and discussion. Council will be kept informed.

Halloween parade. Mayor Martin announced that Palmyra's Halloween parade is scheduled for October 30. It starts at 5:45pm at the National Casein site. Mayor Martin asked Council to consider walking in the parade with him.

Paving of Broad Street. Mayor Martin reported that the County would be starting work on Broad Street effective October 10. Work on this roadway will consist of roadway milling, roadway repaving and pavement striping. The work is scheduled for completion within six (6) working days from the start date.

Meeting open to the public

Bill Harris, 502 Cinnaminson Street, stated that he feels the Borough's Animal Control Officer is not responsive enough to resident's concerns. Mr. Harris cited instances when he has attempted to contact M& R Wildlife, the Borough's Animal Control Officer, about setting traps for stray cats on his property and nothing is done. Mr. Cesaretti responded that he would check this matter out and get back to Mr. Harris. Mr. Harris then asked if a sanitary probe could be done on the property at 505 Cinnaminson Street. Mr. Harris stated that he feels this is the owner's responsibility and that it isn't a Borough problem. Mrs. Alls-Moffatt stated that she believes this is a code enforcement issue and she will review this issue with our Code Enforcement Officer, Alan Adams.

Bob E. Smyth, 1 Bank Avenue, believes the budget process should be started earlier to begin work on getting the local tax rate down. Mr. Smyth stated that he has been getting feedback from the public about taxes, sewer bills, etc. Mr. Smyth stated that Council has got to look at cost reductions and the need to look into grants. Mr. Cesaretti stated that if people are complaining about their taxes, the school tax is what should be thoroughly reviewed. That is the largest part of the overall tax bill. Mr. Cesaretti asked what the school board is doing to slash their budget. Mr. Smyth commented that he has talked to the school board. Mr. Cesaretti reminded Mr. Smyth that he had recommended last year that our Finance Committee, as well as the Ad Hoc Finance Committee should review the school's bills and spending as well as the Borough's. Mr. Cesaretti stated that the school has a far bigger budget than the Borough's. Mrs. Villari commented that some of the Borough's budget line items are almost expended. Mrs. Villari commented that things come up that need to be addressed. How much more can we slice these budget line items? Regarding the school's budget, Mrs. Villari stated that she feels that the school board should start accepting tuition as they once did. Mr. Cesaretti is not in favor of having the Ad Hoc Finance Committee next year if they don't review the school's budget as well. Mr. Cesaretti commented that the same people Mr. Smyth is talking to are the same people that vote to approve the school's budget. Scott Reed, Public Works Manager, commented that the local municipal budget is extremely tight. We may not be able to continue providing services. Mrs. Alls-Moffatt commented that there are two places in town where we can slash money—the school and our Police Department. Mr. Cesaretti stated that if the town

wants to have the luxury of having their own school and Police Department, they are going to have to pay for it.

Bill Brown, 617 Linden Avenue, asked if Riverton has a sex offender ordinance in place. The response was no. Mr. Brown strongly suggested that Council consider this. It was the consensus of Council that sample sex offender ordinances be obtained from other municipalities for Council to review and consider at their November work session.

RESOLUTION 104-05

**A RESOLUTION PERMITTING THE EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC FROM A MEETING IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES PER SECTION 8 OF THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT C.231 P.L. 1975
(IN FULL IN RESOLUTION BOOK)**

The above Resolution was read by title only by Mr. Smyth, who moved for its adoption. This was seconded by Mr. Cesaretti. A poll vote was then taken. Dr. Daniel aye, Mrs. Villari aye, Mr. Smyth aye, Mr. Gilmore aye, Mr. Cesaretti aye and Mrs. Alls-Moffatt aye. It should be noted that a litigation matter will be discussed.

At this time Mr. Smyth moved that we return to public session. This was seconded by Mrs. Villari. A poll vote was then taken. Dr. Daniel aye, Mrs. Villari aye, Mr. Smyth aye, Mr. Gilmore aye, Mr. Cesaretti aye and Mrs. Alls-Moffatt aye.

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Smyth moved that the meeting be adjourned. This was seconded by Mr. Cesaretti, with all present voting in the affirmative.

Mary Longbottom, RMC
Municipal Clerk