

April 9, 2008

The regular meeting of the Riverton Borough Council was held on the above date. Mayor Martin presiding.

PRESENT: Council members Brown, Cairns Wells, Smyth, Kinzler, Cesaretti and Solicitor Bruce M. Gunn

ABSENT: Council member Daniel

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 notice of all meetings to be held in 2008 published in the Burlington County Times on December 30, 2007

(b) Posting written notice on the official bulletin board on January 4, 2008

TREASURER'S, FINANCE REPORTS AND BILL LIST FOR APPROVAL-Mr. Kinzler

Mr. Kinzler moved that the attached reports for the month of March, 2008 be approved as submitted. This was seconded by Mr. Cesaretti. A poll vote was then taken. Dr. Daniel absent, Mr. Brown aye, Ms. Cairns Wells aye, Mr. Smyth aye, Mr. Kinzler aye and Mr. Cesaretti aye.

REVIEW OF INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT RE: MORGAN AVENUE PROJECT

Mr. Gunn reported that he has reviewed this agreement. He recommended that we include additional language stating that we reserve the right to reject any of the bids for the reconstruction of Morgan Avenue for any lawful reason, including, but not limited to budgetary constraints. Council concurred with Mr. Gunn's recommendation.

RESOLUTION 38-08

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF THE BOROUGH OF RIVERTON TO EXECUTE AN INTERLOCAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE BOROUGH OF PALMYRA FOR THE MORGAN AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT
(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. Brown. A poll vote was then taken. Dr. Daniel absent, Mr. Brown aye, Ms. Cairns Wells aye, Mr. Smyth aye, Mr. Kinzler aye and Mr. Cesaretti aye.

PUBLIC SAFETY-Mr. Cesaretti

Mr. Cesaretti read a report for the month of March that was submitted by Chief Norcross. Vehicle Mileage 3219, Gas used Pending, Juvenile Arrests 0, Adult Arrests 14 (Criminal Warrant 2, Criminal Summons 2, Traffic Warrants 9, DWI 1, Other 0), Motor Vehicle Accidents 5, Motor Vehicle Stops 124, Motor Vehicle Warnings 15, Motor Vehicle Summonses 88 (Riverton Officers 74, GD Grant 14, NJ Transit N/A, Others N/A, Burglar Alarms 18, Assists to Other Police Departments 18, Animal Complaints 2, Fire Calls 14, Arson 0, Ambulance Calls (Riverton) 33, Unattended Deaths 0, Criminal Cases 26, Incidents 226, Domestic 4, Thefts 3, Burglaries 2, (From Residences 0, and From Vehicles 2) Assaults 0, Sexual Assaults 0, Criminal Mischief 4, Robberies 0, Motor Vehicle Thefts 0, Miscellaneous Complaints 1 and Miscellaneous Calls 471 and Total Calls 1069.

Mr. Cesaretti read a report for the month of March that was submitted by Deputy Fire Chief Robert Yearly. Fire Calls For Month 14, Drills 3, Calls In Town 9, Calls Out Of Town 5, Man Hours For The Month 294.4.

OSHA Violations Mr. Cesaretti reported that a representative from OSHA recently inspected the Police Department and Borough Hall and we were cited for some violations. Mr. Cesaretti stated that work is in progress to remedy these violations before a re-inspection is made of both buildings.

Merging of our Parking & Traffic Committees. Mr. Cesaretti announced that these committees would be merging.

Mr. Cesaretti reported that we are deciding on the verbiage regarding the striping on some of our roads to indicate the wording slow, 25 mph. We are also looking at how much this will cost and how we will pay for it. Mr. Smyth commented that some of these costs could be factored in with our safe routes to schools applications.

Update Re: Draft Stop Signs Mr. Cesaretti reviewed our Solicitor's information on this issue with Council. Mr. Cesaretti reported that the Department of Transportation (DOT) is short staffed and they need to rely on our local investigation. Mr. Cesaretti reported that two way stop signs require a two hour traffic count, analysis of 3 years of accident records, geometric features and sight distance measurements. Our Streets and Roads Engineer should conduct the study, but they should be given information from any previous study or survey performed at the specified intersection. Once DOT receives this information with the Engineer's recommendation, they can conduct a desk review, with approval in fairly short order. Four way stop signs require an 8 hour traffic count and the same information required for the two way stop controls. The length and manner of state review will depend on the locations and any information relative to any study previously performed. The three way stop sign at Thomas and Park would have to be referred to the DOT for field investigation because Thomas proceeds into Cinnaminson Township. We would be free to submit any documentation to the State and our Engineer would not have to be involved in this intersection as the State has the sole responsibility to perform the investigation and provide approvals. Mr. Gunn reported that we would not have to obtain a re-approval for the other Thomas Avenue intersections as Thomas could be designated a through street from the Borough line at Cinnaminson to Park and again from Park to the railroad tracks. Mr. Gunn reported that he is recommending that Council hold off on any ordinances until the investigations are completed. Concern was raised over the engineering costs as well as the costs to purchase all of these stop signs and poles. Mr. Smyth thought that perhaps we could include the intersections slated for stop signs in our application for the safe routes to schools grant. After additional discussion, it was the consensus of Council to table any proposed stop sign ordinances until more information, in particular the costs issues, are resolved.

Update re: Emergency Management Coordinator Appointment Mr. Cesaretti reported that he has informed Kevin Tuno, the Burlington County Emergency Management Coordinator that we do not have the monetary means to pay for a coordinator. Mr. Cesaretti informed him that we would have to come up with some type of creative shared service with another community to fulfill this obligation. A suggestion is to talk to both Palmyra and Cinnaminson about this. Council will be kept apprised of this situation.

RESOLUTION 39-08
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A RETROACTIVE OVERTIME PAYMENT
FOR OFFICER BRIAN JOHNSON
(IN FULL IN RESOLUTION BOOK)

The above Resolution was read by title only by Mr. Cesaretti, who moved for its adoption. This was seconded by Mr. Brown. A poll vote was then taken. Dr. Daniel absent, Mr. Brown aye, Ms. Cairns Wells aye, Mr. Smyth aye, Mr. Kinzler aye and Mr. Cesaretti aye.

2008 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mr. Kinzler reminded Council that at our last discussion on the 2008 budget in February we were in great shape. We were looking at a potential penny or a 1 ½ cent decrease off of the tax rate. The increased revenue from the new commercial properties in town helped us as well as lower debt servicing costs in 2008. After that meeting we were informed that our state aid would be cut by approximately \$147,500.00. Mr. Kinzler stated that \$100,000.00 of the \$147,500.00 can come from debt service. Mr. Kinzler stated that we have to decide how we will offset the rest.

Mr. Kinzler stated that our Auditor will be present at our May 7 meeting. The intention will be to introduce the budget at that time. Mr. Kinzler distributed an updated 2008 (draft) budget expense detail, a revenue analysis (actual v. budget) and a department budget listing with a possible -5% spend reduction for Council's consideration. Copies are on file with the Municipal Clerk.

Mr. Kinzler asked Council again to forego their stipend and go back to volunteering their services. Mr. Smyth stated that he is hearing from other municipalities that due to this year's situation, they are considering freezing wages with no pay increases. Many are not considering any new hiring's. Mr. Kinzler stated that right now our budget assumes a 4% salary increase. In the year's he has served there have only been 3% increases. If we go back to 3%, that would be a savings of \$5,500.00 for every 1%. Mr. Cesaretti commented that we are presently negotiating the police contract at one number while we could be considering another number for the rest of our employees. He does not agree with this. Mr. Kinzler commented that the does not support a freeze on wages. Mayor Martin basically agreed with Mr. Kinzler and thought that the -5% spend reduction was a good suggestion. Mr. Cesaretti suggested not putting anything in the compensation absences (police) line item for this year. Council concurred. Mr. Kinzler suggested eliminating the Sewer Gate replacement; however, Mr. Reed reported that this was already purchased. It was suggested that we eliminate the sewer tank repair cost of \$10,000.00. Council then reviewed in detail various line items to making adjustments where deemed necessary. Further discussion on the 2008 budget will take place at Council's May 7th meeting.

PUBLIC WORKS/SEWER/GRANTS/SHARED SERVICES-Mr. Smyth

RESOLUTION 40-08
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION TO, AND COMMITTING
TO THE MAINTENANCE OF A PROJECT FUNDED BY, THE NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (NJDOT) SAFE ROUTES TO
SCHOOLS PROGRAM
(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 absent, Mr. Brown aye, Ms. Cairns Wells aye, Mr. Smyth aye, Mr. Kinzler aye and Mr. Cesaretti aye.

RESOLUTION 41-08
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN EMERGENCY CHANGE ORDER
PURSUANT TO NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION RULE
5:3811.9 FOR THE SEVENTH STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT
(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 absent, Mr. Brown aye, Ms. Cairns Wells aye, Mr. Smyth aye, Mr. Kinzler aye and Mr. Cesaretti aye.

PARK, CODE ENFORCEMENT, ZONING & COURT-Mr. Brown

Mr. Brown reported that the County Board of Health has exhausted efforts to gain access to 108 7th Street. There have been numerous complaints about this property and we have not received any cooperation from the property owners. Council will be kept apprised of this situation.

Mr. Brown reported that the brick orders have been submitted and no new orders will be taken.

Mr. Brown reported that Robert Recchiuti, 101 Lippincott Avenue has made a request for an interpretation by the Zoning Board as the code applies to a proposed minor subdivision.

PLANNING/REDVELOPMENT-Ms. Cairns Wells

Ms. Cairns Wells reported that the Planning Board adopted a new Open Space Element as part of the Master Plan. The Environmental Resource Inventory is almost near completion. The Planning Board still needs to review the proposed Stream Corridor Protection Ordinance and then forward it onto Council for their review. Ms. Cairns Wells reported that Robert Recchiuti's (101 Lippincott Avenue) minor sub-division application has been continued until the Board's May meeting. Ms. Cairns Wells reported that the Board approved a minor site plan application at 301 Broad Street.

Ms. Cairns Wells reported that the Zoning Ordinance task force continues to work on reviewing our ordinances. Ms. Cairns Wells reported that the committee has begun to review the Historical Society's proposed changes to our Zoning Ordinance. Sign issues were also discussed.

SHADE TREE, BD. OF HEALTH, RECYCLING & ENVIRONMENTAL-Dr. Daniel

Mayor Martin reported that the Arbor Day celebration will take place on April 24th at the Riverton School.

Mayor Martin reported that the Borough will be recognized as a Tree City USA recipient in East Brunswick on April 15th.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Jennifer Waldhauser 710 Thomas Avenue, asked what would be submitted in the Safe Routes to School grant. Mr. Smyth responded what some of the suggestions would be.

OLD BUSINESS-

Update -Re: Request from Signature Information Solutions to receive real estate information from the Borough electronically

Mr. Gunn reported that he has spoken once again with this company and they have indicated that they would increase their fee to \$300.00 per annum. Mr. Gunn reminded Council that they must comply with this Open Public Records Request. After a short discussion, it was the consensus of Council to agree to this proposed fee.

RESOLUTION 42-08

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A PROPOSAL FROM SIGNATURE INFORMATION SOLUTIONS FOR THE BOROUGH OF RIVERTON TO PROVIDE A WEEKLY DATA TRANSMISSION OF BOROUGH RECORDS

(IN FULL IN RESOLUTION BOOK)

The above Resolution was read by title only by Mr. Cesaretti, who moved for its adoption. This was seconded by Ms. Cairns Wells. A poll vote was then taken. Dr. Daniel absent, Mr. Brown aye, Ms. Cairns Wells aye, Mr. Smyth aye, Mr. Kinzler aye, Mr. Cesaretti aye.

NEW BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 43-08

**RECYCLING TONNAGE GRANT APPLICATION
(IN FULL IN RESOLUTION BOOK)**

The above Resolution was read by title only by Mr. Brown, who moved for its adoption. This was seconded by Mr. Cesaretti. A poll vote was then taken. Dr. Daniel absent, Mr. Brown aye, Ms. Cairns Wells aye, Mr. Smyth aye, Mr. Kinzler aye and Mr. Cesaretti aye.

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

Mary Longbottom, RMC
Municipal Clerk