

December 10, 2008

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

**PRESENT:** Council members Daniel (left meeting at 9:50pm), Brown, Cairns Wells (left meeting at 8:40pm), Smyth, Kinzler, Cesaretti and Solicitor Bruce M. Gunn

The following statement was read by Mayor Martin:

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

(b) Having written notice of all meetings to be held in 2008 published in the Burlington County Times on December 30, 2007.

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

The minutes from November 5 and November 12 were then presented. Ms. Cairns Wells moved that these minutes be approved as submitted. This was seconded by Mr. Brown. A poll vote was then taken. Dr. Daniel aye, Mr. Brown aye, Ms. Cairns Wells aye, Mr. Smyth aye, Mr. Kinzler aye and Mr. Cesaretti aye.

**Financial Items-Mr. Kinzler**

**Update Re: Reval process and the mailing of the impact letters-Tax Assessor Tom Davis present**

Mr. Davis stated that we can either send out an impact letter or just the new assessment notice. Mr. Davis recommends doing the impact letter. The impact letter informs the homeowner of their new assessment and what their taxes would have been for 2008 had the new reassessment numbers been in place. The letter does not estimate what the 2009 taxes will be.

Mr. Davis reported that he has looked over the reval numbers and because the market is down, that was factored in during the process. Mr. Davis reported that it looks like 80% of the Borough will either be 700 dollars up or down. Mr. Davis does not think this is a very big impact when you compare it to towns like Moorestown which doubled during their reassessment process. Mr. Davis reported that the average home in Riverton is paying \$7,100.00 annually in taxes. Mr. Davis stated that there were a lot of inequities and that was the reason for this reassessment.

Mr. Kinzler asked where we stand with the commercial properties. Mr. Davis reported that they were finalized and they doubled. Mr. Kinzler asked if the commercial owners would also get an impact letter. Mr. Davis responded yes. Mr. Davis stated that he understands that Council had wanted to delay sending the impact letters out until after the New Year. Mr. Davis broached this issue with the County Tax Administrator who said no. Mr. Davis explained that the new assessment figures must be filed by January 5<sup>th</sup>, so that the new assessment book is printed by January 10<sup>th</sup>. Everything needs to be in place by then. There can be no delays. When the letter goes out (scheduled to be mailed out tomorrow), property owners will have an opportunity to call the company who did the reassessment (Vital Communications) to set up an appointment if they want to dispute their new assessment. Appointments will be scheduled for next week. Ms. Cairns Wells asked if people can still appeal to the County if they are not satisfied. Mr. Davis responded yes, they will have until May 1<sup>st</sup> to file an appeal. Normally the deadline is April 1<sup>st</sup> but when a reval is done the deadline is extended for one month. Mr. Cesaretti, who was not present for the impact letter discussion at last week's meeting, asked why

Council wanted the delay in sending out these letters. Mr. Smyth thought it would be better to send it out after the holidays. Council agreed to send the impact letters out tomorrow.

**Richard Rauth** asked Council for a clarification on the reval process. Mr. Davis provided an overview and stressed the fact that a revaluation is redistribution. A lot of people don't understand that.

**Monthly Collection Update** Mr. Kinzler. Mr. Kinzler reported that as of today we have a collection rate of 97.56%. Calls are being made to those property owners who have not paid their taxes.

**Treasurer's, Finance Report and Bill list for Approval.** Mr. Kinzler moved that the attached reports for the month of November be approved as submitted. This was seconded by Mr. Cesaretti. A poll vote was then taken. Dr. Daniel aye, Mr. Brown aye, Ms. Cairns Wells aye, Mr. Smyth aye, Mr. Kinzler aye and Mr. Cesaretti aye.

#### **RESOLUTION 98-08**

#### **TRANSFER RESOLUTION**

#### **(IN FULL IN RESOLUTION BOOK)**

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

**2009 Budget Process and Timeline** Mr. Kinzler reported that he and members of the Finance Committee would be meeting with Department Heads very soon to review their budget requests. Mr. Kinzler hopes to have a draft 2009 budget for Council's review by our January 14<sup>th</sup> meeting, with a second draft ready by Council's February 4 meeting. Mr. Kinzler cautioned that we would need to have the State Aid figures finalized before final adoption of the budget

#### **RESOLUTION 99-08**

#### **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DAYS AND TIMES OF ALL COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR 2009**

#### **(IN FULL IN RESOLUTION BOOK)**

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

#### **RESOLUTION 100-08**

#### **A RESOLUTION OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF RIVERTON AUTHORIZING THE DAY AND TIME FOR THE 2009 REORGANIZATION MEETING**

#### **(IN FULL IN RESOLUTION BOOK)**

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

#### **Committee Reports**

**Public Safety**-Mr. Cesaretti read a report for the month of November that was submitted by Chief Norcross. Vehicle Mileage 3494, Gas Used 417, Juvenile Arrests 1, Adult

Arrests 4 (Traffic Warrants) Motor Vehicle Accidents 4, Motor Vehicle Stops 121, Motor Vehicle Warnings 52, Motor Vehicle Summonses 70 (Riverton Officers), Burglar Alarms 19, Assists to Other Police Departments 21, Animal Complaints 6, Fire Calls 5, Arson 1, Ambulance Calls (Riverton) 30, Unattended Deaths 0, Criminal Cases 15, Incidents 177, Domestic Violence 3, Thefts 2, Shoplifting 0, Burglaries 0, Assaults 0, Sexual Assaults 0, Criminal Mischief 0, Robberies 0, Motor Vehicle Thefts 0, Miscellaneous Complaints 11, Miscellaneous Calls 617 and Total Calls 1151.

Mr. Cesaretti read a report for the month of November that was submitted by Deputy Fire Chief Robert Yearly. There were 14 fire calls for the month, 3 drills 6 calls in town and 8 calls out of town.

#### **ORDINANCE 6-08**

### **AN ORDINANCE OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF RIVERTON COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AMENDING CHAPTER 123, ARTICLE VIII, SCHEDULE IV TO PROVIDE FOR TWO-HOUR PARKING ON HARRISON STREET (IN FULL IN ORDINANCE BOOK)**

The above Ordinance was read by title only for the second time by Mr. Cesaretti, who moved for its adoption. This was seconded by Mr. Kinzler. At this time, Mayor Martin opened this portion of the meeting to the public for any comment on this Ordinance. **Gene Bandine** asked what will happen to the building when the bank moves out. This pertains to the public being able to park on their second lot. Mr. Cesaretti responded that we can't anticipate that until we would talk to the new owners. We have an agreement now with the bank to utilize the second parking lot as a public lot. Mr. Bandine asked if there was any chance that NJ Transit would buy the bank's parking lot. Mr. Cesaretti responded that he cannot speak for anyone. **Richard Rauth** asked if we had determined how many parking spaces the businesses need. Mr. Cesaretti responded not to the point of an exact number. There being no further comment on this Ordinance, Mayor Martin closed this portion of the meeting to the public. A poll vote was then taken. Dr. Daniel aye, Mr. Brown aye, Ms. Cairns Wells aye, Mr. Smyth aye, Mr. Kinzler aye and Mr. Cesaretti aye.

#### **Planning/Redevelopment-Ms Cairns Wells**

Ms. Cairns Wells reported that the Planning Board will be hearing a site plan application for 509-11 Howard Street. Ms. Cairns Wells reported that resident Chris Ford would be serving on the steering committee for the Downtown Revitalization Study. Ms. Cairns Wells stated that the Zoning task force report will be completed very soon and will then be submitted to Council for their review.

#### **Streets/Roads/ Shared Services/Grants/Economic Development-Mr. Smyth**

Mr. Smyth reported that a representative from Congressman Andrews's office has informed him that recreational park upgrades at our fields and upgrades to our historic grandstand/bleachers can be considered for possible funding purposes. We must now submit a 2 page summary detailing this proposed project to his office by December 31, 2008. Councilman Brown will handle this. Mr. Smyth suggested that we include a request for skateboard ramps to be placed at the park in the summary request.

Mr. Smyth reported that the Burlington County Bridge Commission will be providing funding to upgrade and improve the pocket park at Bank & Linden Avenues. Mr. Smyth reported that the Mayor sent a letter to the Commission informing them that

we have received the plans and approve the proposed design. Mayor Martin has forwarded a letter to the Burlington County Bridge Commission.

Mr. Smyth reported that the Borough of Palmyra has solicited Requests for Proposals for the police consolidation study. Council will be kept informed of the process.

#### **RESOLUTION 101-08**

#### **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN A REGIONAL COORDINATION GRANT FOR SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SERVICES (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, Mr. Brown aye, Ms. Cairns Wells absent, Mr. Smyth aye, Mr. Kinzler aye and Mr. Cesaretti aye.

#### **Zoning/Park/Court/Code Enforcement—Mr. Brown**

Mr. Brown reported that there was no report for the Zoning Board.

Mr. Brown read a report for the month of November that was submitted by Court Administrator, Jackie Gleason. The total receipts for the month amounted to \$6,971.00. The total amount disbursed to Riverton amounted to \$3,668.18. Mr. Brown reported that he has received additional information from the Court Administrator regarding the usage of credit cards in Municipal Court. Mr. Brown distributed this to Council for their review.

Mr. Brown reported that our Solicitor has filed an Order to Show Cause in Superior Court regarding the property at 622 Thomas Avenue. Council will be kept apprised of this issue.

Mr. Brown reported that the Police Arbitration has been rescheduled to January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009, with a back –up date of January 13, 2009.

#### **Shade Tree/Bd of Health/Environmental/Recycling Dr. Daniel**

The Solicitor reported that the specifications for Care and Maintenance of trees are being revised. We hope to re-advertise for bids as soon as the specifications are completed. **Gene Bandine**, a member of the Shade Tree Commission, reported that the Commission has completed a census of all of the Borough's trees.

#### **Meeting open to the public**

**Gene Bandine**, asked if we have received any grant money that would defray the costs for us to put up safety signs in the middle of Main Street. Mr. Smyth stated that signage requests were placed in grant applications. To date we have not heard whether we have received grant funding or not. Mr. Bandine asked whatever happened to the vacuum leaf collection. Mr. Smyth responded that he would confer with Mr. Reed regarding this issue because he has also been questioned about this.

**Richard Rauth** thinks the Public Works Department does an efficient job collecting the leaves, but it seems they use a lot of equipment. Mr. Cesaretti responded that the Department is complying with the stormwater regulations.

**Brad Young** asked if the manhole at the pocket park at Bank & Linden will be removed when the area is upgraded. Mr. Cesaretti stated that the height will be reduced so that it doesn't stick up anymore.

**Richard Rauth** asked for an update on the derelict property at 108 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Mr. Gunn stated that there is an order to show cause in superior court before Judge Baldwin. This

deals with the enforcement action regarding the front porch and the citation by our Construction Official. This is an action to either have the owner repair the porch or, if he doesn't do it, the Borough would do it. This would require placing a lien against this property. We are also looking to enforce the penalties which are in excess of \$5,000.00. Mr. Gunn reported that the property owner was served this past weekend. He has some time to file any objections. The court date is January 9<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Daniel asked if there was anyway of posting a speed limit sign on Maple Lane. People are driving too fast along the alley. Dr. Daniel believes it is local people. It usually happens around 6 or 7 at night. One vehicle is a blue convertible Saab and the other is a two door Nissan. Mr. Cesaretti will confer with the Chief and Mr. Reed on this issue.

**Richard Rauth** asked what was happening with the eagle at the train station that is in need of being re-painted. Mayor Martin responded that we are trying to find a way to fund this. It should run around \$750.00. Mayor Martin commented that he would also like the wooden benches in the gazebo painted.

**Correspondence**-There was no correspondence presented at this time.

#### **RESOLUTION 102-08**

### **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. Brown, who moved for its adoption. This was seconded by Dr. Daniel. A poll vote was then taken. Dr. Daniel aye, Mr. Brown aye, Ms. Cairns Wells absent, Mr. Smyth aye, Mr. Kinzler aye and Mr. Cesaretti aye. It should be noted that a Police personnel matter will be discussed.

At this time, Mr. Cesaretti moved that we return to public session. This was seconded by Mr. Brown. A poll vote was then taken. Dr. Daniel absent, Mr. Brown aye, Ms. Cairns Wells absent, Mr. Smyth aye, Mr. Kinzler aye and Mr. Cesaretti aye.

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

Mary Longbottom, RMC  
Municipal Clerk