

May 13, 2009

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

PRESENT: Council members Daniel (arrived at 7:46pm), Brown, Cairns Wells (arrived at 7:35pm), Smyth, Cesaretti and Solicitor Bruce M. Gunn

ABSENT: Council member Kinzler

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 2009 published in the Burlington County Times on December 29, 2008

(b) posting written notice on the official bulletin board on January 2, 2009

The minutes from April 1 and April 8 were then presented. Mr. Brown moved that these minutes 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 absent, Mr. Smyth aye, Mr. Kinzler absent and Mr. Cesaretti aye.

TREASURER'S, FINANCE REPORT & BILL LIST FOR APPROVAL-Mr. Smyth

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PUBLIC SAFETY-Mr. Cesaretti

Mr. Cesaretti read a report for the month of April that was submitted by Chief Norcross. Vehicle Mileage 2933, Gas Used 400.07, Juvenile Arrests 2 (Assaults 0, Miscellaneous 2-shoplifting and Curfew 0), Adult Arrests 16 (Criminal Warrants 1, Criminal Summons 0, Shoplifting 5, Traffic Warrants 6, DWI 1, Other 0, Burglary 2, and DV 1) Motor Vehicle Accidents 7, Motor Vehicle Stops 51, Motor Vehicle Warnings 25, Motor Vehicle Summonses 38 (Riverton Officers 38, GD Grant 0, NJ Transit N/A, BCSD UN), Burglar Alarms 15, Assists to Other Police Departments 30, Animal Complaints 10, Fire Calls 5, Arson 0, Ambulance Calls (Riverton) 25, Unattended Deaths 0, Criminal Cases 41, Incidents 229, Domestic 2, Thefts 13, Shoplifting 5, Burglaries 10 (From Residences 1, From Vehicles 9, Other 0), Assaults 0, Sexual Assaults 0, Criminal Mischief 1, Robberies 1, Motor Vehicle Thefts 0, Miscellaneous Complaints 10, Miscellaneous Calls 460 and Total Calls 1196. Regarding the burglaries reported this month, Mr. Cesaretti reminded the public to keep their cars and homes locked. Some of the burglaries resulted from vehicles and homes being left unlocked.

Mr. Cesaretti read a report for the month of April that was submitted by Deputy Fire Chief, Robert Yearly. Fire Calls for the Month 12, Drills 3, Calls in Town 7, Calls out of Town 5.

Mr. Cesaretti read a report for the month of April that was submitted by Animal Control Office, M&R Wildlife. Three sick raccoons were taken to the shelter.

STREETS/SEWER/GRANTS/SHARED SERVICES &

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.-Mr. Smyth

Mr. Smyth reported that we will be introducing a Bond Ordinance later on this evening for the 2009 Road project (Linden Avenue)

Mr. Smyth reported that there will be a shared services meeting on May 26. Coordinators from 6 counties will be presenting their ideas on what has worked and what has not regarding shared services.

Mr. Smyth reported that we had a 5.06% tax decrease in the local municipal purpose tax rate. We have submitted a press release to the Burlington County Times and the Courier Post to inform the public of this fact.

PLANNING/REDEVELOPMENT-Ms. Cairns Wells

Ms. Cairns Wells reported that the Borough's third round COAH submission for substantive certification was submitted in December.

Ms. Cairns Wells reported that work on the downtown revitalization grant continues.

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

Mr. Brown read a report for the month of April that was submitted by Court Administrator, Jackie Gleason. Total receipts for the month amounted to \$9,195.00. The total amount disbursed to Riverton amounted to \$4,156.60.

Mr. Brown announced that the Zoning Board swore in some new members at their last meeting.

Regarding Code Enforcement, Mr. Brown reported that the front lawns of both 423 Lippincott Avenue and 622 Thomas Avenue were mowed by the Public Works Department. Numerous complaints had been received. Both owners have been notified. Mr. Brown reported that our Construction Official has also cited the owner of 423 Lippincott Avenue for an unsafe structure. The chimney and portions of his slate roof are falling off. Mr. Brown reported that he has sent the owners of 108 7th Street two copies of the County's Home Improvement Program for their information. Mr. Brown reported that both our Code Enforcement Officer and Fire Marshal visited the property located at 523 Howard Street. Numerous violations were noted. The IPWA or Devastation University would like to utilize the property for sports entertainment, which is not a permitted use in the Neighborhood Business District. The Code Enforcement Officer has written the owners informing them of this finding. They have also been told that they must submit an application for a use variance. They may also decide to apply for site plan approval as part of a use application to the Zoning Board. Mr. Brown also reported that the sign has been removed from this location. Council will be kept apprised of this issue.

Mr. Brown reported that new flags have been installed at the War Memorial.

Mr. Brown reported that a follow-up letter was sent to the State Bureau of Housing Inspections. We had initially asked them to inspect all of the multiple dwellings in the Borough. Mr. Brown stated that the Supervisor has asked us to submit another copy of the property listings in question so that the results of their investigation can be forwarded to us. We were informed that the person who initially handled this had retired.

SHADE TREE/BD OF HEALTH, RECYCLING & ENVIRONMENTAL-Dr. Daniel-No Report

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Dave Polaneczky, 303 Main Street, who has resided in Riverton for 8 years, raised concern over problems that have transpired near his home, such as having his mailbox smashed, beer cans and bottles strewn around, finding used condoms out front of his

home, and finding houses near his property surrounded by police officers, perhaps serving warrants on the 2nd and 3rd block of Main Street.. Mr. Polaneczky has called the police on occasions and is thankful for their prompt responses to his concerns. Mr. Polaneczky believes these issues seem to be more and more prevalent this past year. Mr. Cesaretti commented that he had already spoken to Mr. Polaneczky about his concerns. Mr. Cesaretti stated that there has been an increase in out of town population coming into the Borough via the light rail. With the economy what it is now, all towns are seeing a little rise in crime. Mr. Cesaretti has met with the entire Police Department about the need for more community policing of the Borough. Mr. Cesaretti further stated that the issue of reinstating a Town Watch Committee was raised at last week's meeting by Riverton resident Ruth Strom. This issue was also discussed with the Police Department. Chief Norcross commented that Ms. Strom has indicated her willingness to head up a new town watch and start getting applications out to the public. However, before we do anything, the Chief thought that the Borough would need to pass a Resolution authorizing the reinstatement of the town watch. We initially had one back in 1993. Mr. Cesaretti commented that he believes it is a good time to have a town watch. Mr. Gunn stated that for insurance purposes, a Resolution would need to be adopted, making the members an independent subcommittee of the Borough. Mr. Gunn further stated that one thing to be aware of is that the Borough would not cover liability insurance on the member's cars. Mr. Cesaretti asked Mr. Gunn if we should wait until next month to institute this. Mr. Gunn responded yes, we would need to know who will be serving on the town watch. Mr. Gunn further stated that we could use the same rules and regulations that were utilized in 1993 and update them as necessary. The Clerk provided Ms. Strom with a copy.

The Chief stressed the fact that when residents have a concern or issue to be addressed they need to call 829-1211 which goes directly to central (dispatcher) or 9-1-1 which operates 24 hours a day. The local police number 829-1212 is not manned 24 hours a day. Stickers with this information will be ordered to be included with the new tax bills expected to be mailed during the summer. They will also be sent home with the Riverton School children.

Ruth Strom reported that all the information she has gathered from the National Town Watch Website indicates that you first have to pay a membership fee. Mr. Gunn commented that what we do locally is up to us. Ms. Strom thinks there might also be some financial output here. From what she understands, they don't want people out using their cell phones to call 911. They want people to utilize radios. Chief Norcross stated that when the original town watch disbanded, those radios were given to the Public Works Department. Mr. Smyth stated that he would find out if there are any grants available for Town Watch organizations to defray any costs. Chief Norcross commented that the initial Town Watch received donations from our residents.

Gene Bandine commented that he has gotten quick responses when he has called the dispatcher (829-1211). Mr. Bandine raised concern about the people congregating by the pizza restaurant and ice cream parlor. They make a lot of noise and do not show respect to anyone. Mr. Bandine stated that a trash can needs to be placed at this location. People just drop their trash on the pavement. Mr. Bandine also raised concern about the speeding issues when drivers are accessing Howard Street from Broad. Mr. Bandine thinks the speed limit should be 15mph the whole length of Howard Street. Mr. Bandine also

complained that large trucks making deliveries to the businesses on Howard Street block people's view of the street. This creates a hazardous situation. Mr. Bandine is also concerned about the people congregating at the gazebo. Mr. Bandine's concerns will be reviewed by the Police Department.

Gary Ford reported that the property at 407 Bank Avenue recently sold and that the new owners would be doing a lot of work to the property.

Richard Rauth asked for an update on 108 7th Street. Mr. Brown responded to what he reported earlier in the evening.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Gunn reported that he has received a cat licensing model code from our Animal Control Officer. Mr. Gunn commented that he would be reviewing this and would make a recommendation to Council next month about whether we should consider amending our present Ordinance (Chapter 45).

Regarding 622 Thomas Avenue, Mr. Gunn reported that we are in the process of appointing an administrator for the Estate. Before doing this, we need to have the decedent, Tilman L. Booth's heirs renunciate their rights as administrator in reference to this property. Council will be kept apprised of this issue.

Mr. Cesaretti announced that Chief Norcross' retirement party is scheduled for June 26, 2009 at Kove Catering in Edgewater Park.

At this point Dr. Daniel left the dais.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE 2-09

AN ORDINANCE OF THE BOROUGH OF RIVERTON, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON AND STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO PROVIDE FOR AND DETERMINE RATES OF COMPENSATION OF EACH OFFICER AND EMPLOYEE OF THE BOROUGH OF RIVERTON (IN FULL IN ORDINANCE BOOK)

The above Ordinance was read by title only for the second time by Mr. Smyth, who moved for its adoption. This was seconded by Ms. Cairns Wells. At this time, Mayor Martin opened this portion of the meeting up 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 absent, Mr. Brown aye, Ms. Cairns Wells aye, Mr. Smyth aye, Mr. Kinzler absent and Mr. Cesaretti aye.

ORDINANCE 3-09

AN ORDINANCE IN THE BOROUGH OF RIVERTON AMENDING CHAPTER 22, SECTION 23 AND 29, CHAPTER 109, SECTION 10 AND CHAPTER 113, SECTION 48 AND CHAPTER 128, ATTACHMENT 2, OF THE RIVERTON BOROUGH CODE TO PROVIDE FOR INCREASES IN VARIANCE, SITE PLAN AND SUBDIVISION FILING AND ESCROW FEES (IN FULL IN ORDINANCE BOOK)

The above Ordinance was read for the second time by title only by Ms. Cairns Wells, who moved for its adoption. This was seconded by Mr. Brown. At this time Mayor Martin opened this portion of the meeting to the public for any comment on this Ordinance. **Richard Rauth** asked if these increases would impact permit fees. Ms. Cairns Wells responded no. This Ordinance addresses the application and escrow fees

for those people going before the Planning or Zoning Board. There being no further comment on this Ordinance, Mayor Martin closed this portion of the meeting to the public. At this point, Dr. Daniel returned to the dais. A poll vote was then taken. Dr. Daniel abstained, Mr. Brown aye, Ms. Cairns Wells aye, Mr. Smyth aye, Mr. Kinzler absent, and Mr. Cesaretti aye.

ORDINANCE 5-09

A BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE 2009 ROAD PROGRAM OF THE BOROUGH OF RIVERTON, IN THE COUNTY OF BURLINGTON NEW JERSEY, APPROPRIATING THE AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF \$542,000 AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$344,000 BONDS OR NOTES TO FINANCE A PORTION OF THE COST

The above Ordinance was read for the first time 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 aye, Mr. Smyth aye, Mr. Kinzler absent, and Mr. Cesaretti aye. Second reading and a public hearing on this Ordinance is scheduled for June 10.

ORDINANCE 6-09

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$19,250 FROM THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR THE PURCHASE OF A LAWNMOWER AND IMPROVEMENTS TO BOROUGH AND POLICE OFFICES FOR AND BY THE BOROUGH OF RIVERTON, IN THE COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, NEW JERSEY

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

RESOLUTION 37-09

**A RESOLUTION TO DECLINE FUNDING FROM NJDOT FOR THE SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL 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 aye, Mr. Brown aye, Ms. Cairns Wells aye, Mr. Smyth aye, Mr. Kinzler absent, and Mr. Cesaretti aye

RESOLUTION 38-09

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE REFUND OF A PROPERTY TAX OVERPAYMENT
(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 Ms. Cairns Wells. A poll vote was then taken. Dr. Daniel aye, Mr. Brown aye, Ms. Cairns Wells aye, Mr. Smyth aye, Mr. Kinzler absent and Mr. Cesaretti aye.

RESOLUTION 39-09

**A RESOLUTION CANCELLING TAXES ON BLOCK 1600 LOT 12
(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 aye, Mr. Brown aye, Ms. Cairns Wells aye, Mr. Smyth aye, Mr. Kinzler absent and Mr. Cesaretti aye.

RESOLUTION 40-09

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CANCELLATION OF OLD
OUTSTANDING CHECKS (PAYROLL ACCOUNT)
(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 Ms. Cairns Wells. A poll vote was then taken. Dr. Daniel aye, Mr. Brown aye, Ms. Cairns Wells aye, Mr. Smyth aye, Mr. Kinzler absent and Mr. Cesaretti aye.

RESOLUTION 41-09

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CANCELLATION OF OLD
OUTSTANDING CHECKS (CURRENT ACCOUNT)
(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 aye, Mr. Smyth aye, Mr. Kinzler absent and Mr. Cesaretti aye.

CORRESPONDENCE- Mr. Cesaretti stated that he would be sending a thank you letter to the Burlington County Chief's who handled the interview process of the internal candidates for the position of Chief of Police.

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

Mary Longbottom, RMC
Municipal Clerk