

March 14, 2012

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

PRESENT: Council members Creighton, Cairns Wells (arrived at 7:35pm), Corbi, Kinzler (arrived at 7:40pm), Myers, Solicitor Bruce M. Gunn and Auditor, Robert Stewart

ABSENT: Council member Layton

The following statement was read by Mayor Brown:

Public notice of this meeting, pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, 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 2012 published in the Burlington County Times on December 28, 2011

(b) Posting written notice on the official bulletin board on January 3, 2012

The minutes from February 1 and February 8 were then presented. Mr. Corbi moved that these minutes be approved as submitted. This was seconded by Mr. Creighton. A poll vote was then taken. Ms. Layton absent, Mr. Creighton aye, Ms. Cairns Wells absent, Mr. Corbi aye, Mr. Kinzler absent and Mr. Myers aye.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Jackie Dorworth addressed Council about the ongoing concerns regarding the property at 108 7th Street.

Mr. Brown reported that the owners have satisfied all of the structural problems to the satisfaction of our Construction Official. There is a plan in place for the owners to pay the fines in the amount of \$3,500.00. Ms. Cairns Wells reported that a \$500.00 payment was made at the end of November, 2011 but nothing else was paid as of the end of February, 2012. Mr. Gunn reported that he has conferred with our Construction Official who has agreed to accept a monthly payment of \$500.00 from the owners. If a payment is not made by the end of March, we will go back to Court for the whole amount.

Mrs. Dorworth stated that she has been coming to Borough Council and the Code Enforcement Officer regarding this property since 2002. Even though the structural issues have been satisfied, what happens to the rest of the property that is in a shambles? Ms. Cairns Wells stated that we are now communicating directly with Mr. Johnson alone and there is no excuse for him to say he doesn't know what is going on. Ms. Cairns Wells will ask our Code Enforcement Officer to take another look at this property to determine what issues remain and to get them documented. We can also have the Construction Official take another look at the garage on this property. Mrs. Dorworth suggested that Council might want to consider a property maintenance ordinance. This issue was taken under advisement by Council.

Loretta Zorn asked what can be done, if anything, to stop the disparity in how property owners are billed for sewer charges. She is a single person, living in a small home and pays \$350.00 annually. She believes she pays the same as those who have much larger homes with many more bathrooms and people living at those locations.

Mr. Myers was of the opinion that Ms. Zorn does have a valid point to make. Mr. Myers stated that residential homes are billed (Chapter 106-37 of the Borough Code) a

base fee of \$350.00 per unit. Non residential units are charged a base fee of \$350.00 per unit for the first 48,000 gallons of water, plus an additional fee of \$3.25 per 1,000 gallons of water or portion thereof consumed in excess of the base 48,000 gallons per unit in the prior calendar year. The Auditor commented that there have been discussions in the past about possible methods of doing the sewer billing, such as doing away with the sewer bill altogether and incorporating it into the tax bill. A discussion ensued with the consensus being that this issue should be re-visited for possible changes in the way we bill for sewer.

FINANCIAL ITEMS: Mr. Kinzler

TREASURER'S, FINANCE REPORT & BILL LIST FOR APPROVAL

Mr. Kinzler moved that the attached reports for the month of February be approved as submitted. This was seconded by Ms. Cairns Wells. A poll vote was then taken. Ms. Layton absent, Mr. Creighton aye, Ms. Cairns Wells aye, Mr. Corbi aye, Mr. Kinzler aye and Mr. Myers aye.

2012 BUDGET REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

Council reviewed the 2012 budget package distributed by Mr. Kinzler. A copy is on file with the Municipal Clerk. A lengthy discussion then ensued with Council thoroughly reviewing various line items, making adjustments, revisions and cuts where necessary. At this time it was decided that Council go into closed session to review some personnel issues that might impact this year's budget.

RESOLUTION 36-2012

**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 Ms. Cairns Wells, who moved for its adoption. This was seconded by Mr. Corbi, with all present voting in the affirmative. It should be noted that personnel (salaries) will be discussed.

At this time, Ms. Cairns Wells moved that we return to open session. This was seconded by Mr. Corbi, with all present voting in the affirmative.

ORDINANCE 1-2012

**AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2012
N.J.S.A. 40a:4-45-14)**

The above Ordinance was read for the first time by title only by Mr. Kinzler, who moved for its adoption. This was seconded by Ms. Cairns Wells. A poll vote was then taken. Ms. Layton absent, Mr. Creighton aye, Ms. Cairns Wells aye, Mr. Corbi aye. Mr. Kinzler aye and Mr. Myers aye.

RESOLUTION 37-2012

**A RESOLUTION INTRODUCING THE 2012 MUNICIPAL BUDGET
(IN FULL IN RESOLUTION AND MINUTE BOOK)**

The above Resolution was read by title only by Mr. Kinzler, who moved for its adoption. This was seconded by Mr. Corbi. A poll vote was then taken. Ms. Layton absent, Mr. Creighton aye, Ms. Cairns Wells aye, Mr. Corbi aye, Mr. Kinzler aye and Mr. Myers aye. A Public Hearing and final adoption for the 2012 Municipal Budget will take place on April 11. A summary of the 2012 Municipal Budget will be published in the

March 25th edition of the Burlington County Times. This budget reflects an increase of 0.009 cents in the Local Municipal Purpose Tax. The impact of this increase on the average home amounts to \$25.48. The Borough's estimated tax rate for 2012 is 0.607. The tax levy for 2012 amounts to \$1,716.694.00.

RESOLUTION 38-2012
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A TAX REASSESSMENT PROGRAM
(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. Creighton. A poll vote was then taken. Ms. Layton absent, Mr. Creighton aye, Ms. Cairns Wells aye, Mr. Corbi aye, Mr. Kinzler aye and Mr. Myers aye.

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



Mary Longbottom, RMC
Municipal Clerk