

March 4, 2015

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

PRESENT: Council members Bianchini, Creighton, Cairns Wells, Azelby, Corbi and Solicitor William Martin (filling in for Bruce Gunn, Esquire)

ABSENT: Council member Kinzler

The following statement was read by Mayor Brown:

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 2015 published in the Burlington County Times on December 28, 2014
- (b) Forwarding written notification of the 2015 meeting schedule to the Courier Post for informational purposes only on January 6, 2015
- (c) Posting written notice on the official bulletin board on January 5, 2015

RESOLUTION 30-2015

A RESOLUTION FOR THE BOROUGH OF RIVERTON AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF THE PERFORMANCE GUARANTEE FOR THE WALTER S. BARCLAY AGENCY, 202 BROAD STREET/435 THOMAS AVENUE AND ACCEPTING A TWO-YEAR MAINTENANCE BOND (IN FULL IN RESOLUTION BOOK)

The above Resolution was read by title only by Mr. Corbi, who moved for its adoption. This was seconded by Mr. Creighton. A poll vote was then taken. Mr. Bianchini aye, Mr. Creighton aye, Ms. Cairns Wells aye, Ms. Azelby aye, Mr. Kinzler absent and Mr. Corbi aye.

RESOLUTION 31-2015

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR THE ELM TERRACE PROJECT (IN FULL IN RESOLUTION BOOK)

The above Resolution was read by title only by Mr. Corbi, who moved for its adoption. This was seconded by Mr. Bianchini. A poll vote was then taken. Mr. Bianchini aye, Mr. Creighton aye, Ms. Cairns Wells aye, Ms. Azelby aye, Mr. Kinzler absent and Mr. Corbi aye.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Carlos Rogers stated that he was here to propose the establishment of a dog park in Riverton Memorial Park. He understands this issue was raised and discussed a number of years ago. Mr. Rogers stated that he is acting independently and he was not part of the original initiating group. Mr. Rogers distributed information and a rendering regarding his proposal for a dog park. This is on file with the Municipal Clerk. Mr. Rogers reported that the proposed location is parallel to the RiverLine train tracks between the hedges and trees. Mr. Rogers reported that he has reviewed his proposal with the Borough's Park and Recreation Advisory Committee. They thought this would be a positive addition to the park. Mr. Rogers was of the opinion that dogs bring positive socialization aspects to a community. If given Council approval, he intends to raise the money privately so the Borough would not incur any costs. However, Mr. Rogers did acknowledge that there would be minimal expenses to the Borough's Public Works Department regarding maintenance issues. Mr. Rogers stated that he would also generate a dog advocacy committee of Riverton, made up of volunteers to oversee the general maintenance of the dog park and to make sure that the rules are being abided by. Mr. Rogers reported that he started a Riverton Dog Park page on Facebook to generate support as well as a petition. Mr. Rogers acknowledged that potential liability concerns could be an issue. Mr. Rogers is asking that Council make a decision one way or the other by next month's Council meeting.

Mr. Creighton acknowledged that Mr. Rogers had attended the Park & Recreation Advisory Committee meeting to make his proposal. Mr. Creighton provided Council with

an overview of what transpired at that meeting. Ms. Cairns Wells raised concern over the maintenance issues, should Council give their approval. This was one of the stumbling blocks the last time this issue was discussed. Ms. Cairns Wells stated that we would not expect our Public Works Department to do this. Ms. Cairns Wells also asked if there is a recommended size for a dog park. Mr. Rogers responded that he did not know. Mr. Corbi asked if we had any definitive information regarding potential liability issues and would the Borough bear any responsibility. Mr. Martin responded that whether the Borough is responsible or whether we could be sued are two different issues. Mr. Martin is not aware if there is any specific immunity for dog parks. This would have to be researched.

At this time Mr. Creighton introduced Burlington County's Park Superintendent, **John Smith**. Mr. Creighton had asked him to attend tonight's meeting. Ms. Cairns Wells asked what the county liability is with their dog park. Mr. Smith responded that liability comes with it, but they look at it that the people enter at their own risk. Mr. Smith reported that the County has more liability issues that come up with their playgrounds than with the dog park. Mr. Creighton asked Mr. Smith how the clean up issues are handled. Mr. Smith responded that the dog owners are required to clean up after their dogs. Mr. Smith also stated that no toys are permitted for the dogs in the dog park.

Mayor Brown stated that the sloping of the suggested area raises concern about the safety of the dogs. Mayor Brown stated that this concern was raised the last time the dog park proposal was made. It had been suggested at that time to move the proposed site closer to the playground area. Mayor Brown emphasized that that would not happen. Ms. Cairns Wells raised concern over the noise from the train-would people really want to stand there and listen to it? Mayor Brown stated that if approved, other than removing trash, we would not provide any maintenance for a dog park. Ms. Azelby raised concern over who would formulate and enforce the rules and regulations for a dog park. Chief Shaw commented that we might have to do an ordinance for the rules and regulations. Mr. Smith reported that there haven't been many problems at the County's dog park. He did acknowledge that the police are called occasionally. After some additional discussion, it was the consensus that more detailed information was needed before any decision would be reached, in particular what liability issues would the Borough be facing.

Jen Douglass, a Riverton resident stated her support for a dog park in Riverton.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

SHADE TREE/ENVIRONMENTAL/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-Mr. Bianchini

Mr. Bianchini reported that he has been trying to set up a meeting with the new tree contractor (Greenscape Landscaping) to review our rules and regulations. The Clerk reported that the owner of the company still has not signed the required contract nor has he submitted the required performance bond. She has contacted him twice about this. No shade tree work can be done until he submits the executed paperwork. Mr. Bianchini will also reach out to him.

Mr. Bianchini reported that environmental concerns about the rain garden at the school have been raised by the Parent Teacher Organization. Both members of the Environmental Commission and the PTO will be meeting to recommend changes to the whole site.

Mr. Bianchini reported that the Environmental Commission is working towards obtaining a Sustainable Jersey Municipal Certification. The Chair of the Shade Tree Board will be assisting them.

PARK/PLANNING BOARD-Mr. Creighton

Mr. Creighton reported that the soccer league asked him if they could run a summer futsal league in the empty tennis court area. It was suggested that they submit a short proposal for our Solicitor to review. We need to make sure it doesn't conflict with the summer recreation camp already scheduled.

Mr. Creighton reported that we received a proposal from Alaimo Associates for the proposed park improvements we want to do this year as well as their engineering estimate. Council reviewed the engineering estimate and was of the opinion that it was high. Mr. Creighton will review this estimate with the Engineer to see where reductions can be made. Mr. Creighton stated that he still needs to submit a letter to the County requesting a change in the scope of work from our prior grant application. He also needs to review the County's position that grant money cannot be utilized for renovating the train shed (or the area around it) in the park because the County's position is that the shed is a historic building.

PUBLIC SAFETY/CODE ENFORCEMENT/COURT-Ms. Cairns Wells

Ms. Cairns Wells reported that we are keeping up with respective vacant property issues needing to be addressed. Ms. Cairns Wells noted that an unsafe structure violation was issued for the vacant property at 410 Main Street back in December, which is still not being addressed. The next step will be for our Solicitor to take the responsible agency to superior court.

Chief Shaw read the following police report for the month of January 2015: Vehicle Mileage 2590, Juvenile Arrests 0, Adult Arrests 30 (Contempt, 25 Possession of CDS 3, Obstruction/Hindering 1, DWI 2-These figures represent people who were arrested and the charges against them), Motor Vehicle Accidents 4, Motor Vehicle Stops 336, Motor Vehicle Warnings 133, Motor Vehicle Summonses 203 (all Riverton), Alarms 18, Assistance to Other Agencies 18, Animal Complaints 8, Fire Calls 1, EMS Calls 22, Unattended Deaths 0, Criminal Cases 33, Incidents 376, Domestic 0, Thefts 0, Burglaries 0, Assaults 1, Sexual Assaults 0, Criminal Mischief 1, Robberies 0, Miscellaneous Calls 440, Total Calls Dispatched 816, Incidents 376 and Quick Calls 440.

For February, 2015 the police report is as follows: Vehicle Mileage 1919, Juvenile Arrests 0, Adult Arrests 31 (Contempt 27, Possession of Pills 3, Obstruction/Hindering 1, Robbery 2, Poss of Hypo 1-These figures represent people who were arrested and the charges against them), Motor Vehicle Accidents 2, Motor Vehicle Stops 253, Motor Vehicle Warnings 72, Motor Vehicle Summonses 181 (All Riverton), Alarms 19, Assistance to Other Agencies 15, Animal Complaints 4, Fire Calls 4, EMS Calls 9, Unattended Deaths 0, Criminal Cases 31, Incidents 349, Domestic 0, Thefts-Shoplifting 1, Burglaries 0, Assaults 0, Sexual Assaults 0, Criminal Mischief 0, Robberies 1, Miscellaneous Calls 380, Total Calls Dispatched 729, Incidents 349 and Quick Calls 380.

Chief Shaw reported that the Police Department office renovations have commenced. The Department recently sponsored A Coffee with a Cop event. This enabled residents to air their concerns and/or complaints, etc. Chief Shaw reported that the Sheriff's Department is in town, at the location of Broad & Thomas to determine which driver's are violating the pedestrian crossing at this location. Chief Shaw announced that on May 16th a fundraiser dinner for the Special Olympics will be held at the Orange Blossom Café. Chief Shaw reported that a dunk tank will be set up during the 4th of July celebration and volunteers are needed.

The Court report for January, 2015 which was submitted by Court Administrator Jackie Gleason, is as follows: the total receipts for the month amounted to \$15,662.00 and the total amount disbursed to Riverton amounted to \$8,376.33.

REPLACEMENT PROCESS FOR THE MUNICIPAL CLERK AND TREASURER'S POSITIONS

Ms. Cairns Wells reported that the Mayor, Ms. Azelby and herself have met to discuss this and are in the process of putting together an advertisement for both positions. Council will be kept informed.

SCHOOL/BOARD OF HEALTH-Ms. Azelby

Ms. Azelby reported that Council previously discussed and agreed in principle to sponsoring an 8th grade graduation award in the amount of \$150.00. Ms. Azelby reported that the following criteria for this award was endorsed by her committee as follows: must

be an honor roll member, have strong academic performance, participation in at least one civic event, and be interested in government studies. Ms. Azelby requested that we approve a Resolution tonight.

RESOLUTION 32-2015

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH COUNCIL TO SPONSOR AN 8TH GRADE RIVERTON SCHOOL GRADUATE WITH A MONETARY AWARD OF \$150.00 AND SETTING THE AWARD CRITERIA (IN FULL IN RESOLUTION BOOK)

The above Resolution was read by title only by Ms. Azelby, who moved for its adoption. This was seconded by Mr. Corbi. A poll vote was then taken. Mr. Bianchini aye, Mr. Creighton aye, Ms. Cairns Wells aye, Ms. Azelby aye, Mr. Kinzler absent and Mr. Corbi aye.

STREETS/SEWER/RECYCLING-Mr. Corbi

Mr. Corbi reported that the Public Works Department had new photo ID badges printed. There is a problem with the 2005 Ford Expedition but the value is such that it might not make sense to put extra money into it. We have received reimbursement for the salting and plowing of the County roads in town. Two clean up days are scheduled through Clean Communities for the Borough's schools, one at Orchard Friends (April 17th and the other at the Riverton Public School (April 4). Chief Shaw and Public Works Manager Fred Rodi are working to put together an Easter egg hunt on April 4. The new trash tuck has been serviced and the shute has been fabricated. A new policy has been put together for all Public Works employees requiring that they need to be on call for staffing needs within the department. Mr. Corbi reported that a representative from the Department of Environmental Protection was in to review our Stormwater Management Plan with Mr. Rodi. Mr. Corbi reported that there were a lot of discrepancies in the past reports that were submitted. We need to make sure that we are on top of the inspection reports. There is a 10 point system that we need to follow as well. A lot of these issues have been neglected and the record keeping was pretty shoddy. We were given a warning to correct everything going forward.

The sewer replacement work on 2nd Street between Cinnaminson and Howard is scheduled to commence when the weather breaks.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mayor Brown read a letter from Marianne E. Hulme, the Borough's Chief Financial Officer, indicating that she would be resigning her position effective August 1, 2015.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA FOR MARCH 11

The Clerk reviewed this with the Governing Body.

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



Mary Longbottom, RMC
Municipal Clerk