

May 13, 2015

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

**PRESENT:** Council members Bianchini, Creighton, Cairns Wells, Kinzler, Corbi and Solicitor William Martin

**ABSENT:** Council member Azelby

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

The open and closed session minutes from April 1 and April 8 were then presented. Mr. Creighton moved that these minutes be approved as submitted. This was seconded by Ms. Cairns Wells. A poll vote was then taken. Mr. Bianchini aye, Mr. Creighton aye, Ms. Cairns Wells aye, Ms. Azelby absent, Mr. Kinzler aye and Mr. Corbi aye.

#### **TREASURER'S, FINANCE REPORT & BILL LIST FOR APPROVAL**

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

#### **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**Janice Renn 412 Main Street** asked for an update regarding the continuing deteriorating conditions of the property located next door to her at 410 Main Street. Ms. Cairns Wells reported that the court date for the unsafe structure issue regarding this property was May 8. Prior to that, our Solicitor received notification from the responsible agency that they would be obtaining an engineer to provide a proposal to remedy the problems pursuant to this specific complaint. They asked for a postponement until May 29<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Renn asked when they were first notified that this was an unsafe structure. Ms. Cairns Wells responded that the original notice went out in November but wasn't sent to the correct party at that time. This has since been rectified. Ms. Cairns Wells reported that our Construction Official needs the respective property management agent to submit a work order to repair the roof and to get an engineer's report for the structural repairs needed at this property. This must be done by the May 29<sup>th</sup> date. Solicitor Martin explained that an order to show cause was submitted to the court. The responsible party knows that this is an emergent situation that needs to be fixed up in short order. Mr. Martin provided an overview of this process. Ms. Cairns Wells commented that the inside problems with this property are not part of the unsafe structure issue. Our Code Enforcement Officer is working on this and that the property has been fumigated twice. Mrs. Renn acknowledged that Council is doing the best they can, but reiterated the fact that this property has been left derelict for years and years, with nothing being done about it. Mrs. Renn is still very upset about this property. Mayor Brown acknowledged Mrs. Renn's right to be upset, but he feels the Borough is making strides to get the issues resolved. Mrs. Renn is concerned that someone will buy it and turn it into apartments. Ms. Cairns Wells responded that our zoning doesn't permit that. Ms. Cairns Wells cited a similar situation that came up regarding 408 Main Street when it was being sold back in 2010. This property was listed on Borough records as being three units. The Zoning Board heard a request for an interpretation on the unit issue. The owner could not produce proper documentation that the units had been rented; therefore, the Board ultimately ruled that the units were abandoned at this property and that the property went back to a single family designation. Ms. Cairns Wells thought this would probably play out the same way.

Mrs. Renn then stated that donations from a variety of local organizations all seem to arrive at the same time. She asked if something could be done to have these requests spread out. This issue was taken under advisement.

Mrs. Renn stated that she doesn't understand why everyone stopped by the police has a warrant. She doesn't understand the process of the law. Chief Shaw responded with a detailed explanation of the process for Mrs. Renn's benefit.

**Richard Rauth** commented that he likes the new street signs that were installed on 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Ms. Cairns Wells reported that she had a conversation with the owner of 108 7<sup>th</sup> Street about the condition of their property. This property has been the cause of concern over the years. Ms. Cairns Wells noted that she has seen some positive improvements.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **SHADE TREE/ENVIRONMENTAL/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-Mr. Bianchini**

Mr. Bianchini reported that all removals have been completed by our contractor. Trees have been picked up from Cranbury Nurseries and the planting will commence on Monday.

Mr. Bianchini reported that a member of our Environmental Commission, who was instrumental with the installation of the rain garden installation at the school, has behaved inappropriately at recent school board meetings. Mr. Bianchini provided an overview of this situation for Council. After speaking with some of the members of our Environmental Commission, Mr. Bianchini believes we should give this person a second chance and we will monitor his behavior. Mr. Kinzler asked whose decision this would be. Mr. Bianchini responded that it was Council's. Solicitor Martin cautioned that our Environmental Commission Ordinance provides for a specific process for the potential removal of a commission member. Mr. Martin reviewed these specific parameters with Council. After some discussion, it was the consensus that something be placed in writing to the person in question that expresses our concern about this person's behavior for the Borough's file. Mr. Bianchini stated that he would take care of this.

##### **PARK/PLANNING BOARD-Mr. Creighton**

Mr. Creighton reported that he still has to clear the change in the scope of work for the current County park grants with their designated representative. He will take care of this. Mr. Creighton reported that after this is done, we still need to finalize exactly what we want to list in our proposed specifications for this project. We will need the assistance of our Engineer regarding this issue before a final decision is reached by Council.

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

Ms. Cairns Wells read a report for the months of March and April that were submitted by Court Administrator Jackie Gleason. For March, the total amount received amounted to \$16,179.00. The total amount disbursed to Riverton amounted to \$8556.37. For April, the total amount received amounted to \$16,217.00. The total amount disbursed to Riverton amounted to \$8,842.28.

Ms. Cairns Wells read a report for the month of April that was submitted by Deputy Fire Chief Robert Yearly. Fire Calls for the Month were 8, drills 3, Calls in town 5 and Calls out of town 3.

Chief Shaw read a report for the month of April. Vehicle Mileage 2245, Juvenile Arrests 0, Adult Arrests 19 (Contempt 17, Possession of CDS 1, DWI 1-These figures represent people who were arrested and the charges against them), Motor Vehicle Accidents 5, Motor Vehicle Stops 314, Motor Vehicle Warnings 119, Motor Vehicle Summonses 195 (all Riverton), Alarms 12, Assistance to Other Agencies 15, Animal Complaints 15, Fire Calls 2, EMS Calls 22, Unattended Deaths 0, Criminal Cases 21, Incidents 296, Domestic Violence 2, Thefts 0, Burglaries 0, Assaults 0, Sexual Assaults 0, Criminal Mischief 1, Robberies 0, Miscellaneous Calls, 336, Total Calls Dispatched 632, incidents 296 and Quick Calls 336.

The Police Department's benefit dinner for the Special Olympics takes place this Saturday at the Orange Blossom Café.

Chief Shaw reported that his Department is working on getting a pedestrian detail back in town in the next couple of weeks. This is done on Broad Street to make sure driver's stop for pedestrians. Mr. Kinzler asked for an explanation of this law. Chief Shaw stated that if you have an intersection that's not marked with a cross walk, technically it is still considered one for the pedestrian trying to cross the street. It's still illegal if the driver's do not stop. Chief Shaw stated that these details are done to educate the public because many are not aware of the laws. Explanatory pamphlets will be distributed during these events. Ms. Cairns Wells asked if she stops for a pedestrian and is rear ended is it her fault or the person who hits her. Solicitor Martin explained that the pedestrian has an obligation to make sure the cross walk is clear or not to cross there. A driver has an obligation to look out for anything, including pedestrians and to make reasonable observations as you continue down the roadway. Drivers have an obligation to keep a safe distance from the vehicle in front in order to be able to stop safely. Solicitor Martin provided additional detailed information and potential scenarios regarding potential liability for both drivers and pedestrians for Council's information.

Mr. Kinzler asked if we were required by law to post the police log (which includes names) on Facebook. Chief Shaw responded that it is something we choose to do. Mr. Kinzler stated that he has been approached by residents who are concerned about this. It's as if the people are guilty until proven innocent. A discussion ensued about this with the consensus being that the Public Safety Committee would review this issue for any recommended changes. Council will be kept advised.

**SCHOOL**-Ms. Azelby-No Report

**STREETS/SEWER/RECYCLING**-Mr. Corbi

Mr. Corbi reported that Scott McKone, the new Operator in the Public Works Department recently started and is working out well. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Street (between Howard and Cinnaminson) sewer main replacement was completed. Until the road is ready for the placement of the final coat, we will be withholding a portion of the payment to the contractor. Mr. Corbi reported that we are also aware that the surface of this road at this location needs to be completed prior to the criterium bike race scheduled for June 14<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Corbi reported that Cinnaminson Township jetted out the sewer line at this location for us, which saved us some money.

Mr. Corbi reported that free mulch is now available at the Department of Public Works. We finally got the Clean Communities funding squared away; we filed for an extension to utilize funds from a number of years ago. New signs have been installed on 7<sup>th</sup> Street and more are forthcoming. We are saving the old signs because we might be able to sell them. The first application of fertilizer was done at the park in April. The cylinders on the loader were able to be rebuilt giving us a cost savings.

We are trying to get all the plantings and brick work completed on Elm Terrace so that the project can be closed out. Mr. Creighton stated that he thought there were some issues with sprinkler systems on this street that still need to be resolved by the contractor. Mr. Corbi asked if there were any other issues that needed to be resolved regarding this project, to let him know as quickly as possible.

Mr. Corbi reported that once the required waiting period has occurred for any potential protest to the current bond ordinance that was adopted last week, we can go ahead and have our engineer start work on our road project.

Mr. Corbi announced that we received a letter from the Department of Transportation informing us that we were awarded \$196,000.00 in grant money for our 2016 road project.

Mr. Kinzler asked if there was a plan to refresh the stop signs in town that are washed out. Mr. Rodi responded that he is aware of this and will be working on a solution. We will ask the County to pick up the costs for those signs on their roads in the Borough.

Mr. Corbi reported that no smoking signs and additional trash cans have been placed at the park.

**OLD BUSINESS**-None

**NEW BUSINESS**-None

**CORRESPONDENCE**-None

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Creighton 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