

**BOROUGH OF BLOOMSBURY
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 23, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council was held on September 23, 2014 at Borough Hall, 91 Brunswick Avenue, Bloomsbury, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by the reading of the Sunshine Law by Lisa Burd Reindel.

As required by the Open Public Meetings Act of 1975, adequate notice of this meeting was provided on January 16, 2014 by the publication of said notice in the Hunterdon County Democrat and the posting of said notice in the Municipal Building on the same date.

ROLL CALL:	Chris James	Al Stiehler- excused
	Kathleen Jordan	Chris Smith
	Vicky Papics	Eric Weger - absent
	Martha Tersigni, Mayor	William Edleston, Esq.

FLAG SALUTE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Jordan moved Council adopt the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 22 2014; seconded by Mr. Smith. All ayes. James - abstain. Motion carried.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORTS

Mr. Smith moved Council approve the Tax Collector's Monthly Reports dated July 30, 2014 and August 31, 2014; seconded by Mrs. Papics.

ROLL CALL VOTE: James-aye; Jordan-aye; Papics-aye; Smith-aye. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST

The Clerk advised Council that Kim Francisco prepared the August 26, 2014 Bill list and she prepared the September bill list. She added that she prefers Council vote on them individually. Council voiced concern that there may not be funds available in the Recreation account to cover the items on the bill list.

Mr. James moved Council approve the bill list of August 26, 2014; provided funds are available; seconded by Mr. Smith.

ROLL CALL VOTE: James-aye; Jordan-aye, except payroll; Papics-aye, except payroll; Smith-aye; Tersigni-aye. Motion carried.

The Clerk explained that she has been covering the finance office in the CFO's absence to the extent possible. She advised that she has been writing checks to pay routine bills, getting vouchers in order and making deposits as needed. The Clerk stated that although she believes the bill list she prepared for September to be accurate, the CFO may want to make minor clerical

changes to the listed account or descriptions. Mr. Edleston stated that minor changes could be made by the CFO upon his return as needed. Brief discussion followed.

Mr. James moved Council approve the bill list of September 23, 2014; provided funds are available; seconded by Mr. Smith.

ROLL CALL VOTE: James-aye; Jordan-aye, except payroll; Papics-aye, except payroll; Smith-aye; Tersigni-aye. Motion carried.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Mrs. Jordan moved Council accept the Code Enforcement Reports of August and September; seconded by Mrs. Papics. All ayes. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

V. Papics:

Nothing new to report.

C. James:

Nothing new to report.

K. Jordan:

Board of Education-

- Mrs. Jordan provided Council with information received from the high school and advised that they are on track to open in 2016.
- Mrs. Jordan reported that the Board of Education meeting went smoothly and that they now have a full membership again.

Newsletter –

- Mrs. Jordan will have the September Newsletter finished this weekend. She will send out an email and facebook blast regarding the start of brush pick up.

C. Smith:

Recreation –

- Mr. Smith reported that soccer season begins this Saturday. He advised that they purchased new nets this year and his sons volunteered to help install them. One soccer goal required welding, which was completed at a cost of just under \$500. Mr. Smith advised that he paid for the same out of pocket and will get together with Kim Francisco to be reimbursed.
- Mr. Smith stated that Summer Rec ended in August and they hope to continue the program next year. They plan to get the word out earlier and encourage more participation from Greenwich as well. Mr. Smith stated that they did have a shortfall this year, but they have a commitment from the Spooky Sprint team that they will cover the

same out of their event proceeds. Mr. Smith and Mrs. Jordan confirmed that the Spooky Sprint is a PTO event.

Clerk/Administrator's Report-

Bloomsbury/Bethlehem Court –

- The Clerk reported receiving a check from the court in the amount of \$1,448.21.

DPW-

- The Clerk advised Pip's Paving completed the road repairs on Lance Lane, Center Street, Bethlehem Avenue, Brunswick Avenue, Wilson Street and Musconetcong Drive for a total cost of \$14,675.00.
- Most of the signs which were recently purchased have been installed at the park and on the streets as needed.
- The DPW staff and on-call employees finished building and painting the new leaf box for the truck.
- W. Dowd completed their water service line replacement for Aqua on Main Street out to Route 173 and have begun to work on Brunswick between Gardner and Wilson this week.
- The Clerk reported there was an accident involving a tractor trailer at 21 Main Street on the corner of Main and Church. The wall was damaged and it is unclear who owns the wall and who is responsible for it. The Borough Engineer has advised that the wall is within the municipal right of way, but that although the Borough has a right to do work in the right of way, we are under no obligation to do so. The Clerk advised that it does not appear to be dangerous at the present time.

Stone Walk-

- The Clerk asked the DPW staff to go to the lot and remove some low fencing along the river which was made out of wire, pipe and rebar to eliminate the impalement hazard. She asked if any Council members had been able to walk the property yet and advised that decisions will need to be made regarding maintenance of the same. She explained that there are several garden beds, fenced areas and shrubs which our DPW will not be able to maintain moving forward. The Clerk stated that someone had asked if the school may be able to have a garden on the property. Mrs. Jordan stated that Social Studies teacher asked if the Borough may have any land where they could have an archeological dig. She advised that he would like to be on the agenda for October. The Clerk requested that he prepare something in writing that could be submitted in advance of the meeting.

General Matters-

- The Clerk reminded Council that \$5,000 was included in the budget for survey expenses this year. She advised that Mr. Roseberry had provided a scope of work over a year ago for areas on North Street and on Musconetcong Drive. The cost to survey and stake 7 corners on Musconetcong Drive was \$5,500. The Clerk reported that funds remaining from the Capital Ordinance for the acquisition of the Stone Walk could be used for surveying and staking that parcel. Mrs. Tersigni stated that funds can be used for things related to the acquisition of that property, but not for items like signage. The Clerk

advised over \$4,000 remains and if Council was so inclined they could authorize a cost not to exceed. Discussion followed. Mrs. Tersigni advised that she spoke to the Engineer's office and the cost could be reduced if they can complete the survey work while already in the Borough for the Main Street project.

Mr. Smith moved Council authorize survey work on the Stone Walk parcel in an amount not to exceed \$2,000 to be utilized from the balance of the Capital Ordinance 103-14; seconded by Mrs. Papics.

ROLL CALL VOTE: James-aye; Jordan-aye; Papics-aye; Smith-aye. Motion carried.

- The Clerk received the signed agreements with Vektor today.
- The Clerk met with Bob Gemmel of Brown & Brown today and held the annual insurance review. She sent email requests to Fire and Rescue to obtain current membership rosters so that she can adjust the worker's compensation numbers if need be. The Clerk pulled the property record card for 99 North Street to provide the needed information for coverage for that building. She advised that typically Mr. Francisco would report on estimated salary numbers and in his absence, the agent will simply increase last year's numbers by 2%.
- The Tax Assessor reported that reassessment notices were mailed to property owners in July and inspections commenced on the 11th with 123 or 317 residential inspections complete as of September 8th.
- The County will hold a meeting on October 3, 2014 at 9AM to discuss shared service opportunities related to garbage and recycling services.

M. Tersigni:

Planning Board-

- Mrs. Tersigni reported a subcommittee met on September 15th. Joanna Slagle announced she will be leaving her position at Banisch and she introduced us to Charles McGroarty who will be taking her place as the Borough Planner. She advised that he has done a lot of rehabbing in High Bridge. Most of their discussion that evening centered around the North Street area between Church and Gardner and the potential for a redevelopment zone there. Mrs. Tersigni advised it would fall under Highlands Element, the Sustainable Economic Plan component of our Master Plan. Our goal will be to revitalize and get ratables and we may be able to satisfy our COAH obligation of four units.
- The Planning Board meeting held on September 16, 2014 was brief and basically reviewed the discussion from the subcommittee meeting the night before.

Water Quality Workshop-

- Mrs. Tersigni advised there was a water quality workshop held on August 27th which was attended by only a handful of people. She stated that she filled them in on where private wells are and the septic situation in the Borough and the State laws governing septic system as they had not been aware of that.
- The annual water quality report for the Borough is under the Warren Glen System. She advised that the latest report is not currently posted on the website.

Mrs. Tersigni advised that she is trying to get together with Mr. Weger to go over winter preparations but his schedule has changed and they have not met yet.

Rescue Squad-

- Mrs. Tersigni advised that she had received addition requests from two different members of the Rescue Squad to know what documentation was needed for them to provide to us in order for their funds to be released. She stated that she started this last November. Mrs. Tersigni advised that they had a series of roundtables with all of the Mayors and everybody knew exactly what was needed and they still have not provided what was asked for.

Mrs. Tersigni stated that the Clerk had been contacted by a member who stated they had missed a truck payment and had to pay a penalty fee and they are blaming the Borough of Bloomsbury, Bethlehem Township and Alexandria Township for the fact that they missed a payment. She reached out to the other Mayors and they both got back to her. Alexandria reported that they have not received the required financial statements but the money was approved and it is waiting there for them. They have not been approached by anyone saying they need money for a truck payment.

Mrs. Tersigni stated that we all know from sitting at these meetings that it appeared from the statements that they provided that they had about \$73,000.00 in cash assets in the spring so she doesn't know what happened. Bethlehem Township responded that they are not being covered by Bloomsbury as their primary rescue, they now have dual coverage. They did budget for the truck payment and for a donation, but their plan is to donate for the months that they were their primary rescue and they will hold the truck payment because they think it is a non-binding contract.

Mrs. Tersigni stated that the Rescue Squad must go in with the required financial information and ask for the money. She said they still have not provided what we asked for. The last submission given to the Clerk is a duplicate of information previously received. Their budget still does not reflect any income, it still reflects relocation costs of \$12,000 and buildings and grounds expenses of another \$12,000 so this is not a correct budget in any way. Mrs. Tersigni confirmed that the Fire Department is not charging them for any rent or utilities.

Mrs. Tersigni stated that she has asked again for proof that their truck payments are in good standing, a complete budget, income numbers and valid list of expenses and they were supposed to submit a letter of intent moving forward. Mrs. Papics stated that they were given more time by the Fire Department, that the original date of September 1st has been moved to October 15th now. She explained they are waiting for the lawyers who are acting as mediators to get everything together. Discussion followed.

STATE POLICE – PERRYVILLE

The Clerk spoke to Trooper McGourty and he advised he may not be able to attend the meeting but had no formal report.

OLD BUSINESS

MAIN STREET PHASE III UPDATE

The pre-construction meeting was held today and performance bonds will be in this week. They believe they can start drain replacements the 2nd week in October and the project should take about 3 weeks after that. All of the curbs will be replaced and the street resurfaced. Expectations for the project and issues from the last job were discussed with the contractor. The Clerk has a complete set of specs and plans on file in her office.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS

Nothing new to report.

MILL REDEVELOPMENT

Council reviewed a letter from Mr. Edleston to Mr. Zaleski dated August 18, 2014. Mr. Edleston said Mr. Zaleski responded that after numerous meetings with investors and analysis of the construction costs and trying to deal with the DEP, the only way to make the project financially feasible would be to use the majority of the structure as a restaurant which would require a minimum of 40 parking spaces and the DEP will not allow additional spaces on the existing parcel and they will need to begin the process of having the property deeded back to the Borough.

Council discussed options for the Mill including the possibility of allowing someone to dismantle the building and keep the old wood. Mrs. Tersigni will look into the same. Mr. James stated that if we could have a company come in and remove it at no cost to the Borough and remove the liability, he would be in favor of that. Mrs. Jordan stated that some residents will be disappointed if it is removed.

Mrs. Tersigni asked Mr. Edleston if there are any restrictions on bidding or anything. Mr. Edleston stated we could have any restrictions we want, or none. Mr. Edleston stated that he will draw up the deed again and send it to Mr. Zaleski.

NORTH STREET/PICKEL LANE UPDATE

Nothing new to report.

MUNICIPAL REASSESSMENT

The Clerk provided an update in her report.

AGREEMENT FOR ASSESSOR'S SERVICES RELATED TO THE REASSESSMENT

Mr. Edleston stated that Mrs. Hagaman has had it for several weeks, but has not returned it. Mrs. Tersigni stated that she will ask her for it as she has not even seen it yet. The Clerk stated that the agreement was requested so it could be looked at several months ago, and now the Assessor is already into the process, imputing the data and doing what she knows needs to be done. It

seems odd to retroactively request she sign an agreement outlining the same. The Clerk added that the good news is that she is doing the job, and she thanked the Assessor for the same.

FORECLOSED PROPERTY UPDATE

Council reviewed the memo from Mr. Edleston regarding the process for moving forward with the foreclosed properties.

SERVICE ELECTRIC FRANCHISE AGREEMENT RENEWAL

Mrs. Tersigni asked if we missed a deadline on something and if we should be doing fact finding on this. Mr. Edleston stated that we threw the ball back into their court at this point. Mrs. Tersigni stated that according to the memo the fact finding has to be done two years in advance of the expiration of the current agreement which is in 2016. Mr. Edleston stated he will send their attorney a letter.

SPOOKY SPRINT

Mrs. Tersigni stated that a few questions were answered by Mr. Smith. She stated that she doesn't know if the approval has been granted by the freeholders. She said that if Mr. Smith is depending on the money for Rec he needs to be aware. Mr. Smith stated that he is not responsible for the administration of the Spooky Sprint and they may not be aware of everything going on but if she wants more details or regular updates she can ask them. Mrs. Tersigni asked if the Clerk had a route map, she stated she did not receive one this year. Mrs. Tersigni stated that the next Council meeting is after the fact, and she had texted Megan prior to the deadline for submission of information to this meeting and the Clerk emailed her and we have nothing.

Mrs. Jordan left the meeting to make a call. The Clerk stated that Council typically adopts a Resolution approving the event and allowing the needed street closures. Discussion followed. Mr. James asked if we could have a special meeting if need be. The Clerk pulled the Resolution done for the event last year and said that if they could confirm that the times and route are the same, Council could adopt the Resolution by number tonight.

NEW BUSINESS-

RESOLUTION # 45-14 - LIEN REDEMPTION

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector of the Borough of Bloomsbury has advised the Council that the following property has been redeemed and the money due thereon paid to the Borough of Bloomsbury Tax Collector on August 26, 2014;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Common Council of the Borough of Bloomsbury this 23rd day of September, 2014 that a refund has been made to the certificate holder as noted:

CERTIFICATE HOLDER	BLOCK/LOT	CERT #	AMOUNT
Mr. Joseph Cicchiello	25/11	2013-002	\$13,201.27

Mrs. Papics moved Council adopt Resolution # 45-14; seconded by Mr. Smith.
ROLL CALL VOTE: James-aye; Jordan-abstain; Papics-aye; Smith-aye. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 46-14 - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF BLOOMSBURY TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE PRICING AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5) authorizes contracting units to establish a Cooperative Pricing System and to enter into Cooperative Pricing Agreements for its administration; and

WHEREAS, the Brown & Brown Insurance Group, hereinafter referred to as the "Lead Agency " has offered voluntary participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the purchase of goods and services;

WHEREAS, on September 23, 2014 the governing body of the Borough of Bloomsbury, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey duly considered participation in a Cooperative Pricing System for the provision and performance of goods and services;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

TITLE

This RESOLUTION shall be known and may be cited as the Cooperative Pricing Resolution of the Borough of Bloomsbury

AUTHORITY

Pursuant to the provisions of *N.J.S.A. 40A:11-11(5)*, the CFO is hereby authorized to enter into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with the Lead Agency.

CONTRACTING UNIT

The Lead Agency shall be responsible for complying with the provisions of the *Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.)* and all other provisions of the revised statutes of the State of New Jersey.

EFFECTIVE DATE

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

Mrs. Papis moved Council adopt Resolution # 46-14; seconded by Mrs. Jordan. All ayes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 47-14 - BLOOMSBURY HOSE COMPANY # 1 INC. OFF-PREMISE 50/50 RAFFLE

WHEREAS, the Bloomsbury Hose Company No. 1 Inc. is the licensee on the application to conduct an Off-Premise 50/50 Raffle on November 21, 2014 to be held at the Bloomsbury Hose Company, 91 Brunswick Avenue, from 6:30 - 10:30 PM.

WHEREAS, the appropriate application forms and fees have been submitted to the Borough Clerk; and

WHEREAS, there appear to be no reasons to deny the aforesaid off-premise 50/50 raffle,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council as follows:

1. The off-premise 50/50 raffle application is approved contingent to the Legalized Games of Chance Control Commission approving said application.

Mrs. Papis moved Council adopt Resolution # 47-14; seconded by Mr. Smith. All ayes. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 48-14 - STREET CLOSURE FOR THE SPOOKY SPRINT

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bloomsbury hereby endorse a 5K Run hosted by the Bloomsbury Elementary School PTO to be held on October 25, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the walk will begin at 9:00 am and the run will begin at 9:15 am; and

WHEREAS said Route has been approved by the New Jersey State Police and the Hunterdon County Freeholders

WHEREAS the 5K Route and a Family Fun Walk are as follows:

5K RUN & WALK COURSE:

The route starts at Tuxhorn Park and then crosses Church Street (579) over to High Street.

At the end of High Street, it makes a right down Lehigh Street.

At the end of Lehigh Street, it crosses over Church Street (579) again to North Street.

It continues almost the full length of North Street before making a left on to Wilson Street.

It follows Wilson Street as it crosses over Main Street before turning left onto Brunswick Avenue.

It follows Brunswick Avenue to the end and then crosses over Church Street (579) again to Willow Avenue.

From Willow Avenue it makes a left on to West Street and then a quick left on to Lance Road.

At the end of Lance Road, it turns left onto Church Street (579) before making a quick right onto Main Street.

It continues almost the full the length of Main Street before making a right on to Wilson Street.

It follows Wilson Street to the end and then makes a right onto North Street.

It continues down North Street before crosses over Church Street (579) again to Lehigh Avenue.

Finally, the course makes a left onto High Street before crosses over Church Street (579) to finish at the park.

FAMILY FUN COURSE:

The route starts at Tuxhorn Park and then crosses Church Street (579) over to High Street.

At the end of High Street, it makes a right down Lehigh Street.

At the end of Lehigh Street, it crosses over Church Street (579) again to North Street.

It continues almost the full length of North Street before making a left on to Wilson Street.

From Wilson Street it makes a left onto Main Street.

It continues almost the full the length of Main Street before making a left on to East Street.

At the end East Street, it makes a right onto North Street.

It continues down North Street before crosses over Church Street (579) again to Lehigh Avenue.

Finally, the course makes a left onto High Street before crosses over Church Street (579) to finish at the park.

WHEREAS, partial street closures will be necessary to ensure the safety of all participants;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Common Council of the Borough of Bloomsbury does hereby approve the partial closure of all streets outlined in aforementioned Route to ensure safety of the participants in the 5K run.

Mrs. Papics moved Council adopt Resolution # 48-14; seconded by Mr. Smith. All ayes. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE

Council reviewed correspondence.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Craig Staible, 26 Milford Road stated that last week an 18 wheeler came down Milford Road but he could not get the plate number because he was going too fast. He said that whenever he calls the police they say they can't come out because they are too busy. He said he understands that there is not a weight limit on the bridge, but there is on Milford Road and there is not room for two cars to even pass. Discussion followed. Council acknowledged that GPS often directs drivers into the Borough. The Borough will contact the County to see if there is additional signage that could be posted that may help keep trucks out of the Borough.

Mr. Staible stated that drain pipes on Milford Road are blocked up and causing the water to flow across and erode the road.

Brian McQuaid, 43 Church Street stated that a few years ago his wife became disabled from her job and she has a handicap placard. He stated that he spoke to County about getting a handicapped parking space in front of his home for her. The County stated that they will install the sign and curb and street markings but as a courtesy, they would like a letter from the Borough Council just endorsing the same. Discussion followed. Mrs. Tersigni stated that it cannot just be done by letter, but that the Borough Ordinance would have to be amended first. Mr. Edleston will work with Mr. Roseberry on amending the Ordinance and then the Mayor will write the letter. Mrs. Tersigni advised that it will take two months to get the Ordinance amended. Mr. McQuaid said he understands that the parking space could be used by anyone with a handicapped placard, it would not just be reserved for his wife.

RESOLUTION FOR AN EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 allows for a public body to go into closed session during a meeting, and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bloomsbury has deemed it necessary to go into a closed session to discuss certain matters which are exempted from the public,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bloomsbury will go into closed session for the following reasons as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10:14-2 to discuss potential litigation.

Mrs. Papics moved Council to go into closed session, seconded by Mr. Smith at 8:33 pm. All ayes, motion carried.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Smith moved Council close executive and return to regular session; seconded by Mrs. Papics. All ayes. Motion carried.

Council returned from executive session at approximately 8:58 PM.

Mr. Edleston stated that per Council discussion, he will be revising his draft letter to Mr. Russo and add that communication has been limited with Mr. Pacenti due to the threat of litigation. He will then forward the same to the Borough Insurance Carrier for their approval prior to sending it to Mr. Russo.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Smith; seconded by Mrs. Jordan. All ayes, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa A. Burd Reindel, RMC, CMR
Borough Clerk/Administrator