

**BOROUGH OF BLOOMSBURY
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 25, 2011**

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council was held on January 25, 2011 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.

As required by the Open Public Meetings Act of 1975, adequate notice of this meeting was provided on January 13, 2011 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	Martha Tersigni
	Vicky Papics	Eric Weger
	Steven Shelton	Mark Peck, Mayor
		William Edleston, Esq.

FLAG SALUTE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. James moved Council approve the regular meeting minutes of December 21, 2010; seconded by Mr. Weger. All ayes. Motion Carried.

Mr. James moved Council approve the reorganization meeting minutes of January 1, 2011; seconded by Mr. Shelton. All ayes. Motion Carried

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORTS

Mrs. Papics moved Council accept the Tax Collector's report of December 31, 2010; seconded by Mrs. Tersigni.

ROLL CALL VOTE: James-aye; Papics-aye; Shelton-aye; Tersigni-aye; Weger-aye.
Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST

Mr. Weger moved Council approved the Bill Lists for January 25, 2011; seconded by Mr. Shelton.

ROLL CALL VOTE: James-aye; Papics-aye except for payroll items; Shelton-aye; Tersigni-aye; Weger-aye.
Motion carried.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

Council reviewed the Code Enforcement Officer's report. Mayor Peck stated that cars must be off the roads during snow storms. Mr. Creveling stated that he was in town during the last storm and ticketed about ten cars. Discussion followed.

JOINT COURT ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Donna Surdich introduced herself to Council members and stated that she has held that position now for 4 1/2 years. She said it is a privilege and honor to be a Court Administrator and that she and her deputy have a duty to provide professional service to everyone who comes in contact with the Court. Discussion followed.

Ms. Surdich stated that because she will not always be able to attend Borough Council meetings that she will submit a report to outline basic information including monthly ticket volume, type of tickets and the number of tickets written for Bethlehem Township vs. Bloomsbury Borough vs. Lebanon Borough. Discussion followed.

STATE POLICE REPORT - PERRYVILLE

Trooper John McGourty stated that he checked with Detectives at the station, and there was not really anything significant to report for the Borough this month. He offered to answer questions from Council or the public.

Theresa Fasanella of Main Street asked if he was aware of an issue in town with kids from Phillipsburg selling alcohol to other underage kids. Discussion followed. Trooper McGourty will inquire about the same at the station.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

S. Shelton:

Recreation-

- Mr. Shelton reported being unable to attend the last Recreation meeting due to illness but stated that the Greenwich meetings and baseball sign ups are underway.
- Tom Decker will be stepping down from his position but many new people are getting involved.

M. Tersigni:

Planning Board -

- Mrs. Tersigni stated that she was unable to attend the Planning Board Reorganization meeting due to illness. She asked if the Mayor could fill Council in on who was elected Chair and Vice-Chair. The Clerk stated that Tom Reilly will be Chairman and Ann Ferrero will be Vice-Chair for 2011.

Finance-

- Mrs. Tersigni stated that the biggest thing they have been working on is the financial situation for next year. She explained that the Books for 2010 are officially closed and that informal meetings have been held between the Mayor, Clerk, CFO, Auditor and herself to go over the theoretical fiscal outlook. Mrs. Tersigni stated that she requested

Mr. Francisco come up with some additional numbers in writing so that everyone could see exactly how the tax situation is affecting the budget. Discussion followed.

- Mrs. Tersigni stated that interestingly enough she has not received any budget information from any of the advisory committees so at this point if no one has a budget for the year they will have to be limited to whatever is set aside at this point.
- Mrs. Tersigni stated that she had suggested that a Budget meeting either formal or informal should be held so that everyone making these decisions can be as informed as they want to be and also so that the public can understand what tough decisions we are going to have to made in the next few weeks.

Mayor Peck stated that he thinks we need to wait to have firmer numbers before scheduling a meeting. He further explained that a public hearing may also be needed to inform residents.

C. James:

Newsletter-

- Mr. James stated that he is working on preliminary information for the upcoming newsletter and he has discussed a few options with the Clerk including obtaining prices to have it printed outside of the office.

E. Weger

Pubic Works-

- Mr. Weger stated there was nothing new and Mayor Peck noted that the Public Works employees have been busy with snow removal.

Shade Tree-

- Mr. Weger stated that information regarding the continuing education credits they earned at the tree pruning event was not received by the State but will be forwarded so that they will be in compliance for another year.

V.Papics:

- Mrs. Papics stated that she unplugged the tree lights at Point Park after New Years.

OEM-

- Mrs. Papics explained that she will be unable to attend the February Council meeting as she will be at the new Communications building for an OEM meeting that evening.

- Mrs. Papis will be handing out EOP assignments after the Council vacancy is filled.

2011 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mr. Francisco provided Council with a worksheet and explained that the 2010 books were closed last week. He explained that our surplus at the end of 2009 was \$130,000 and at the end of 2010 it was only \$72,000 showing a loss of \$58,000 in surplus last year.

Mr. Francisco further explained that the Borough held tax liens grew from \$68,029 to over \$211,000. In 2010 our tax collection fell from 94% to 93% requiring an additional \$6,000 be set aside for uncollected taxes in our 2011 budget, bringing our appropriation for this item to \$143,000. Discussion followed.

Council discussed the 2% CAP and noted that the Borough is only permitted to raise taxes by \$7,400 in 2011.

Mr. Francisco explained that if we would have to use \$140,000 of the Water Company Sale money to balance the 2011 Budget and at this rate, that money will only last 2.5 years. He reminded Council that it is not a good idea to use one-time revenue to fund recurring expenses because eventually you run out of money. Discussion followed.

Mayor Peck explained that there are waiver provisions for some of these CAPs, but he was told that even if we wanted to make an application for the same, the Local Finance Board would likely make us deplete the Water Company revenue first.

Mr. Francisco stated that we have to get the delinquent properties to pay their taxes. Discussion followed.

OLD BUSINESS-

SECOND READING - ORDINANCE # 101-11 - AN ORDINANCE SETTING THE SALARIES & WAGES FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF BLOOMSBURY, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY FOR THE YEAR 2011

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor & Common Council of the Borough of Bloomsbury, County of Hunterdon, State of New Jersey.

Section 1. This ordinance shall fix the salaries or wages of the employees of the Borough of Bloomsbury at the following ranges for the year 2011:

Section 2. Salary and wage ranges for the year 2011 are as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| a. Borough Clerk/Administrator | \$20,000 - \$45,000 per year, plus
\$20.00-28.00/hr for additional hours. |
| b. Deputy Clerk | \$9.00 - \$11.00 per hour |

c. Registrar	\$1,000 - \$3,000 per year
d. Deputy Registrar	\$100 – \$500 per year
e. Chief Financial Officer	\$9,000 - \$20,000 per year
f. Tax Assessor	\$5,000 - \$10,000 per year
g. Tax Collector	\$5,000 - \$11,500 per year
h. Public Works Superintendent	\$6,500 - \$18,000 per year, plus \$20.00-25.00/hr for hours in excess of 65 per month
i. Public Works Laborer #1	\$5,000 - \$15,500 per year, plus \$15.00-20.00/hr for hours in excess of 65 per month
j. Public Works Laborer #2	\$3,600 - \$9,000 per year
k. Public Works Laborer #3	\$3,000 - \$7,500 per year
l. Planning Bd. Secretary	\$1,500 - \$5,000 per year
m. Code Enforcement Officer	\$5,000 – \$8,000 per year, plus \$25.00 per sidewalk inspection
n. Assistant Code Enfor. Officer	\$13.00 - \$15.00 per hour
o. Emergency Mgt. Coordinator	\$1,700 - \$4,000 per year
p. Recycling Coordinator	\$250 - \$1,000 per year
q. Dog/Cat Licensing Official	\$400 - \$2,000 per year
r. Assistant EMC	\$7.50 - \$10.00 per hour
s. School Crossing Guard	\$28.00 - \$31.00 per day
t. Regular Laborer	\$15.00 - \$18.00 per hour
u. Seasonal Laborer	\$9.00 - \$12.00 per hour

Section 3. All ordinances inconsistent with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Section 4. This ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication according to law.

Section 5. The exact annual salary or hourly wage for each position shall be specified by a resolution adopted by the Borough Council during the time this ordinance is effective.

Mr. Weger moved Council open discussion to the public; seconded by Mrs. Papics. All ayes. Motion carried.

Ilse Goshen, 69 Main Street asked if any Borough employees received a pension.

Mr. Francisco stated that salaried employees must participate in the pension system. Mayor Peck said that employees are required to participate.

Mrs. Tersigni said that Borough Employees deserve to be in the pension system and explained that employees who have tried to opt out in the past have not been permitted to do so because the State requires it. Discussion followed.

Mrs. Papics moved Council close the public hearing; seconded by Mr. Weger. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mr. James moved Council adopt Ordinance # 101-11; seconded by Mr. Weger.
ROLL CALL VOTE: James-aye; Papics-aye- except line item "O"; Shelton-aye; Tersigni-aye;
Weger-aye.

TREE REMOVAL QUOTES

Council discussed the quotes that were provided at the December Council meeting.

Mrs. Tersigni stepped away from the table for the discussion.

Mr. James asked if the quotes included removal of all brush and wood or if there would be a potential cost savings if they left the wood behind. Discussion followed.

The Shade Tree Committee will draft a letter to property owners offering a partnership with the Borough to share the cost of tree removal by utilizing grant money. The Shade Tree Advisory Committee populated a list of dangerous trees which they felt needed to be removed and their expert, Mr. Korbobo then reviewed the list and inspected the trees as well. Mr. Korbobo, a Certified Tree Expert will draft a letter the Borough confirming the same. Discussion followed.

Mrs. Tersigni returned to the table.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE # 103-11 - AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE KEEPING OF CHICKENS ON RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES

Council reviewed draft Ordinance # 103-11 regarding the keeping of chickens. Discussion followed. Council will forward Ordinance 103-11 to the Planning Board for their review prior to Council Introduction at the February meeting.

HUNTERDON COUNTY DIVISION OF SENIOR, DISABILITIES & VETERANS SERVICES

Council reviewed a letter dated January 6, 2011 from Hunterdon County Department of Human Services. Mayor Peck explained that they would like all Municipalities to have Liaison to the Division and Mayor Peck will reach out to the public to ask for a volunteer to serve in that capacity.

FIREWALL PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION

The Clerk explained that she received a letter from Municipal Software which advised that they recommend the Borough purchase a firewall to be installed on the Borough office computer. She further explained that after contacting Joe, he stated the cost to purchase one they recommended would be about \$250 and then there would be a required monitoring by them which would cost an additional \$80/year. Discussion followed. Mr. Francisco stated that we currently pay them about \$3,000.00 annually for their services. The Clerk explained that the letter stated that if the Borough does not comply with this, that they will not be responsible for system problems we have due to a virus. Discussion followed.

RESOLUTION #20-11 - A RESOLUTION SETTING THE SALARIES & WAGES FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE BOROUGH OF BLOOMSBURY, COUNTY OF HUNTERDON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY FOR THE YEAR 2011

Mayor Peck explained that the Salary Resolution sets the actual salaries for employees. Council reviewed four different Resolutions which showed no increase, 1%, 1.5%, and 2%. Mr. James stated that he would like to give everyone a 2% raise but felt that he can't until he sees definitive budget numbers for 2011. Discussion followed.

Mr. Francisco will pay employees based on last year's amounts for the time being. Mayor Peck agreed with Mr. James, stating that we knew the budget constraints last year when they voted to give employees and increase. Mr. Francisco stated that it was not last year, but rather in 2009 that employees were last given a raise.

Discussion followed. Council will consider the Salary Resolution at the February meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Council reviewed a letter from Millenium Textiles requesting permission to put a used clothing collection bin the Borough. Mr. Shelton stated that he is concerned about dumping around these type bins as he has noticed people sometimes put mattresses, paint cans, etc. on the ground near them. Mr. Weger questioned if they would be liable for anything that was left behind.

Discussion followed. Council members Tersigni, Papis and Shelton voiced concerns about the same.

Mr. James stated that there is a bin at the Fire Company where is a member and that it actually brings in a few hundred dollars a month revenue and that in his experience, whenever there is a problem, the company is very responsive, correcting any issues within a day or two.

The Clerk will reach out to Millenium Textiles to see what their policies are and report back to Council.

Council reviewed a letter dated January 7, 2011 regarding the Borough's allocation of Open Space Funds for 2010.

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 employment matters; action may be taken when the Council returns to regular session.

Mr. Shelton moved Council enter into executive session; seconded by Mrs. Papics.

Council re-entered regular session. Mayor Peck stated that Council met in executive session to discuss the qualifications of various parties who applied for the Recycling Coordinator position. He further explained that it was agreed to first reach out to Steve Douglas and if he does not accept then we will offer the position to Alan Turdo from Holland Township.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Weger; seconded by Mrs. Papics. All ayes, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa A. Burd, RMC
Borough Clerk/Administrator