

BOROUGH OF TOTOWA

MINUTES OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

October 14, 2014

PRESENT: Mayor John Coiro, presiding, Council President Phil Puglise, Councilman Lou D'Angelo, Councilwoman Carolyn Fontanella, Councilwoman Debra Andriani, Councilman Anthony Picarelli, Councilman Brendan Murphy, Municipal Clerk Joseph Wassel and Municipal Attorney Robert Corrado.

ABSENT: None.

Mayor John Coiro called the meeting to order and asked the Municipal Clerk to call the roll.

Municipal Clerk Wassel recited the Prayer of the Meeting followed with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag with the public participating.

Mayor Coiro asked the Clerk to read the statement of the meeting.

The Municipal Clerk read the following statement: This meeting of the Mayor and Council held on this day is being held in accordance with Chapter 231, P.L. 1975 of the State of New Jersey as amended. The agenda for this meeting has been prepared and distributed to the Mayor and Council and a copy has been on file in the Office of the Municipal Clerk.

Mayor Coiro asked if any members of the Council, the Municipal Clerk or the Municipal Attorney wished to address the Council.

Councilman Puglise: Announced that on Sunday, October 5th the Fire Department held an open house/membership drive and had various demonstrations, and they tentatively have 9 new members. Then said that at 5:00 p.m. on the same day the First Aid Squad dedicated their 9-11 monument. Mayor Coiro: Added that nine new members is a good start.

Councilwoman Andriani: 1) Stated that the annual Flu Clinic will start tomorrow from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. and then again on Monday, October 20th from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. at

the Community Center; 2) Remarked that the Board of Recreation along with the Totowa Municipal Drug Alliance will sponsor their Halloween Dance on October 30th at the PAL with details to follow.

CITIZENS HEARD:

April Corbo, 104 Lincoln Avenue: Gave out handouts and asked for space for a Community Garden. Explained all the reasons that she would like to start one and requested some space between the Municipal Complex and Washington Park School. Jasmine Moreano from City Green: Said there are various grants available to assist with a Community Garden and named some municipalities who participate, all to a varying degree. The Mayor and Council had many questions and a long conversation ensued. Mayor Coiro: Informed Ms. Corbo that it sounds like a good idea, we just need to find the right location and that Councilman Picarelli would be the Council's Liaison and asked him to contact Dr. Vince Varcadipane, Superintendent of Schools and locate some other possible locations.

Norma Hollis, 490 Totowa Road: Said that she was here about 13 years ago to complain about the truck traffic and speeding along Totowa Road and that you (Mayor), Hughie and the engineer came to her house and looked into possibilities for keeping trucks off of Totowa Road. Stated that they don't get any peace and there are about 70 homes on Totowa and Minnisink Roads versus maybe 10 on Union Boulevard. Also said there are accidents from speeding, with one of the old fashioned street lights being taken down. Mayor Coiro: Responded that he remembers about the truck route and thought that we spoke to the company representatives and they agreed to alter their route. Announced that he would like to revisit the truck routes and would talk to the engineer to take another look at it to determine what we have to do and then we would have to get the police to "police it".

Mike Rabboh, 33 Huntington Terrace: Came to inquire if there was anything new on the lights for the Minnisink Road Field even though it may be a little early for any answers. Councilman D'Angelo and Borough Clerk Wassel: Gave him a status update.

Mrs. Torres, 481 Totowa Road: Said she lives next to the lawyer's office and continued what Mrs. Hollis was talking about with the large trucks and speeding up and down Totowa Road. Stated that there is a large tree by her house that was hit a few years ago and is now dying. Mayor Coiro: Asked if we can add a sign directing trucks to go straight onto Crew Street and then onto Union Boulevard. Requested that Police Chief Robert Coyle have Lieutenant Mark Aue do a traffic study and also have patrols out there giving tickets to speeders. Allen Del Vecchio: Interjected that truck routes are great, but everyone uses GPS and they just follow that.

Mike Mahometa, 269 Lincoln Avenue: 1) Thanked the First Aid Squad for their 9-11 monument and asked if a sign could be placed; 2) Asked if there was an update on the electric auction. Mayor Coiro: Answered not yet. 3) Asked if maybe solar panels could be installed to possibly lower the cost; 4) Said that at the Home Depot in Totowa they were advertising free solar panels, though he was not sure of the details of the program, and asked if the town would consider putting some on municipal buildings. Mayor Coiro: Replied that he was not sure if the technology had changed, but in the past the panels were too heavy for the Municipal Complex.

There was a motion by Councilman Puglise, seconded by Councilman D'Angelo to approve the Minutes of the Mayor and Council for the meeting of September 23, 2014. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE:

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilwoman Fontanella to approve Resolution No. 2014-21 for the payment of bills. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

There was a motion by Councilman D'Angelo, seconded by Councilwoman Fontanella to approve payment of the 4th Quarter 2014 Budget Allotment to the Borough of Totowa Public Library in the amount of \$167,313.00. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY:

A letter was received from Lincoln Fire Company requesting permission to have a Pancake Breakfast on October 19, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and inviting the Mayor and Council to attend. There was a motion by Councilman Puglise, seconded by Councilman Murphy to grant permission. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS:

There was a motion by Councilman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Puglise to adopt the following Resolution To Submit A Grant Application And Execute A Grant Agreement With The New Jersey Department Of Transportation For The 2015 Municipal Aid Application For Hobart Place And Gordon Avenue Improvements—Final Phase. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 93-2014

RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION AND EXECUTE A GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE 2015 MUNICIPAL AID APPLICATION FOR HOBART PLACE AND GORDON AVENUE IMPROVEMENTS—FINAL PHASE

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa continues to develop projects that will improve access and maintenance on public roads; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa's Engineer has provided plans specifically designed to address and improve traffic flow/safety issues and maintenance on our roads; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa has submitted plans to the State of New Jersey, Department of Transportation for Municipal Aid and will continue to do so in the future; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Totowa has identified Hobart Place—from Union Boulevard to Crosby Avenue and Gordon Avenue—from Union Boulevard to Crosby Avenue in desperate need of repair.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa, in the County of Passaic, State of New Jersey formally approves the grant application for Hobart Place and Gordon Avenue Improvements—Final Phase.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to submit an electronic grant application identified as *MA-2015-Totowa Borough-00239* to the New Jersey Department of Transportation on behalf of the Borough of Totowa.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Municipal Clerk are hereby authorized to sign the grant agreement on behalf of the Borough of Totowa and that their signature constitutes acceptance of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and approves the execution of the grant agreement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall replace Resolution No. 92-2014 – adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Totowa on September 23, 2014 – in its entirety.

COMMITTEE ON ENGINEERING & PUBLIC PROPERTY:

A letter was received from the Italian American Club requesting permission to use the Municipal Parking Lot on Sunday, October 26, 2014 for their trip to Atlantic City. There was a motion by Councilwoman Fontanella, seconded by Councilman D'Angelo to grant permission. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

COMMITTEE ON LIAISON & INSPECTION:

There was no report.

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION & ORDINANCES:

There was a motion by Councilman Picarelli, seconded by Councilwoman Andriani to adopt the following Resolution Urging Governor And Legislature To Recognize And Preserve Strength Of Local Pension Funding When Considering The Recommendations Of Governor Christie's Pension And Health Benefit Study Commission. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

RESOLUTION NO. 94-2014

RESOLUTION URGING GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE TO RECOGNIZE
AND PRESERVE STRENGTH OF LOCAL PENSION FUNDING WHEN
CONSIDERING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF GOVERNOR CHRISTIE'S
PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFIT STUDY COMMISSION

WHEREAS, State actuaries confirm that the bipartisan pension and benefit reforms that were enacted in 2010 and 2011, coupled with the consistent pension payments made by responsible local governing bodies, are delivering the savings that had been promised by their advocates; and

WHEREAS, when analyzing the fiscal health of public employee pension and benefit systems, the experts make a distinction between local commitments for local employees and retirees, and the commitments that are the State government's responsibility; and

WHEREAS, according to the latest valuation reports, the local government Public Employees Retirement System (local PERS) and the local Police and Fire Retirement System (local PFRS) are actuarially sound, in large part due to the fact that municipalities and counties have made full employer contributions as required under the law for over a decade, with local PERS currently funded (comparing assets to liabilities) at 73.9% and local PFRS is currently funded at 76.9%, according to the experts; and

WHEREAS, the State PERS, on the other hand, is currently funded at 48.1%, and State PFRS is a little better, at 50.8%; and

WHEREAS, the Officers of the League of Municipalities have submitted a statement to Governor Christie's Pension and Health Benefit Study Commission, urging that the Final Report and Recommendations of that Study Commission not, in any way, weaken the vitality of the local pension plans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Governing Body of the Borough of Totowa, County of Passaic, urges State policy-makers to recognize and protect the strength of the local PERS and local PFRS systems, and reject any recommendations that would threaten municipal budgets and property taxpayers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, while we recognize the State's budget problems and we are anxious to help in any way we can, we cannot help in any way that shifts new burdens to our property taxpayers and our dedicated public servants.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Governor Chris Christie, State Treasurer Andrew Sidamon-Eristoff, our State Senator Kevin J. O'Toole, our two representatives in the General Assembly, Assemblyman Scott T. Rumana and Assemblyman David C. Russo and to the New Jersey League of Municipalities.

There was a motion by Councilman Picarelli, seconded by Councilwoman Andriani to approve the Application For Special Permit For Social Affair from the State Of New Jersey Division Of Alcoholic Beverage Control for the BPOE #2111 Passaic Valley Elks for November 22, 2014 from 6:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

There was a motion by Councilman Picarelli, seconded by Councilwoman Andriani to approve Raffle License Application No. 1801 for OCA-NJ Chapter (Organization of Chinese Americans) for a Tricky Tray to be held on December 6, 2014 at The Bethwood. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

There was a motion by Councilman Picarelli, seconded by Councilwoman Andriani to approve Raffle License Application Nos. 1802 & 1805 for the BPOE #2111 Passaic Valley Elks for an On-Premise 50/50 and Tricky Tray, respectively, to be held on November 22, 2014. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

There was a motion by Councilman Picarelli, seconded by Councilwoman Andriani to approve Raffle License Application No. 1803 for the BPOE #2111 Passaic Valley Elks for an On-Premise 50/50 to be held on December 20, 2014. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

There was a motion by Councilman Picarelli, seconded by Councilwoman Andriani to approve Raffle License Application No. 1804 for the BPOE #2111 Passaic Valley Elks for an Off-Premise 50/50 to be held on January 9, 2015. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

There being no further business to come before the Council, there was a motion by Councilman Puglise, seconded by Councilman D'Angelo that the meeting be adjourned. On roll call vote, all members of the Council present voted in the affirmative.

Joseph Wassel, RMC
Municipal Clerk