

COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
430 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK, NJ
March 1, 2021
8:23 pm

ROLL CALL:

Present: Council Members Albanese, Mazzaella, Minniti, O'Connor, Smith, Toal, Hund

Also, Present: Sal Bonaccorso, Mayor John Laezza, Business Administrator; Mark Dugan, Township Attorney; Edith Merkel, Township Clerk

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG: MOMENT OF SILENCE

Dismissed (done at prior Special Meeting)

This meeting is in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act (Chapter 231, P.L.1975) as adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by mailing the Annual Schedule of meetings to the Star Ledger, Union County Local Source, and TAP into Clark, by posting such Annual Meeting Schedule on the bulletin board in Town Hall reserved for such announcements, as well as the Official Website of the Township, and the proper filing of said Notice.

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Authorizing and Directing the Council President to enter into Pool Employment Contracts

Discussion:

Council President Hund: Mr. Laezza did you want to give us any information on that?

Mr. Laezza: Robert Cahill, Manager and Ricardo Viteri is the Assistant Manager.

Councilman Smith: Are we going to increase them (their pay) the 2.25 %? Robert Cahill the Manager gets \$12,000.00, he received \$12,000.00 in 2020. I think that the town employees get a 2.25% (increase), I believe?

Mr. Laezza: 2.25%.

Councilman Smith: The recommendation that Ralph and I would recommend is an increase of 2.25%, which would add \$270.00, to his salary. It would then be \$12,270.00.

Councilwoman Albanese: You are recommending that?

Councilman Smith: Then this other gentleman Ricardo Viteri will receive \$5,000.00, and if we increased him, he would be at \$5,112.50. I am in favor of it.

Mr. Laezza: Last year the swim pool went over \$40,000.00 that we had to eat out of (the) Recreation (budget).

Councilman O'Connor: That is one of the recommendations is that there is no overspending.

Mayor Bonaccorso: Let's go back in time to the township that was completely closed down. Ralph came to me and said, "we have to do something for these people" and I told him to open the pool. It ran about 50%, we were absolutely losing money, but the people here felt that they had some kind of a life. Most places were not open, just like most recreation centers were not open, and we are doing what everyone should be doing.

Mr. Laezza: The problem was that Ralph hired a bunch of kids for recreation and we didn't do the recreation camp. He told those kids that they can all work at the pool, and they were all working at the pool. There were more people that were working at the pool then we have ever had working (at the pool).

Township Clerk: What is the decision on the pool everyone?

Mr. Laezza: We will authorize the contracts with a 2 ¼% increase.

Council President Hund asked for a mover and second on this Resolution
Motion: Smith Second: O'Connor

2. Authorizing the Pool rates and fees for the 2021 pool season

Discussion:

Mayor Bonaccorso: We are still one of the lowest (rates) in Union County.

Councilman Smith: I don't believe we have any large outlay, right?

Mr. Laezza: Well, he is looking for a big outlay. He is looking for the capital outlay. He wants to do a fence all around the building. He wants a lot of nice things to make it look nice. We gave him a limit on what he could spend.

Councilman Smith: What is wrong with the fence we have?

Mr. Laezza: You tell me.

Councilman Smith: It is a chain link fence, it looks fine.

Councilman O'Connor: Works still the same, right?

Councilman Smith: Yes.

Council President Hund asked for a mover and second on this Resolution
Motion: Smith Second: O'Connor

3. Award of contract to vendors who qualify for the On-call General Contractors List

Discussion:

Township Clerk: We had one request for qualifications go out and we had three general contractors submit their prices which you have attached to the resolution. Then for electrician and plumber we are going to accept proposals on March 10th. So, they would be added also to the same resolution if they qualify.

Mr. Laezza: This basically allows us, since we went out for proposals, not to have to bid these jobs.

Councilman Smith: Is there a minimum or a maximum dollar amount?

Mr. Laezza: They get over \$25,000.00 when they have this. If it is a little job, we don't have to start worrying about ...

Council President Hund asked for a mover and second on this Resolution

Motion: Mazzarella Second: Smith

4. Cancelling unexpended balances in ordinances no longer needed for the purposes stated in the original capital ordinances

Discussion: None

Council President Hund asked for a mover and second on this Resolution

Motion: O'Connor Second: Albanese

5. Discussion/Resolution: The Fair Ballot Project

Discussion:

Mr. Laezza: This is the line, everybody is on the line, they want to remove the line.

Mayor Bonaccorso: I don't know, it is something to be said for it. My first election that I ever won was off the line. For me it didn't matter back in 1996. They said that you could never win going off the line and we won, me and my running mate that year. There is something to be said for it, the problem is I think that it is not the line but you are on F18, you are all the way down on the bottom right and you can't even see it if you are standing in the booth. I personally am in favor of County lines but I do think you should have a fairer ballot way of distributing the other people. I don't know, like right to left or something like that. My first time that I ran in a Primary my number was F18, I was on the "F" line "18" down.

Mr. Laezza: So, do you want to pass this resolution?

Mayor Bonaccorso: This will hurt Democrats more than Republicans because in Democratic towns they follow party lines. In most Republican towns in a Primary, they will vote for the candidate verses the line.

Councilman O'Connor: I am going to bring up something that you had said about when you get in the booth. Maybe I am belated but are we going forward with regard to mail-in-ballots verses in person ballots? Has that been decided yet?

Councilman Smith: It is here forever.

Councilwoman Albanese: It has been...

Councilman O'Connor: Mail-in-ballots have always been there, correct... absentee ballots, but I am talking mandatory, no one was allowed to vote (on a machine) unless you were handicap.

Councilwoman Albanese: They are not going to do that this year.

Township Clerk: That has not been decided.

Councilman O'Connor: Okay, thank you.

Township Clerk: That has not been decided yet. They are still going through the non-partisan elections now. Originally, they said that we were going to go back in a booth in June, but now they are saying that not enough people have been vaccinated. So, we are maybe or maybe not... Those ballot boxes are there to stay (Councilman O'Connor: Right.) Hopefully at some point we will go back to a machine and that would just be a convenient way for people that do want to vote by mail to use the ballot box.

Councilman O'Connor: Thank you.

Township Clerk: We have no official word yet from the County Board of Elections.

Councilwoman Albanese: Right now, we will have the April election in June?

Township Clerk: April is for towns that still have a separate School Board Election, and May is for non-partisan towns, but June (election) has not been decided yet.

Council President Hund asked for a mover and second on this Resolution

Motion: Entire Council

Second: Entire Council

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

6. Authorizing the Tax Collector to settle a tax appeal for Block 154 Lot 4.01 as authorized by the Tax Court of New Jersey with a refund in the amount of \$5,867.90

Discussion: None

7. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to refund overpayment of 2021 taxes in the amount of \$3,742.87

Discussion None

8. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to refund overpayment of 2020 sewer fees in the amount of \$585.02

Discussion: None

9. Authorizing the Chief Financial Officer to apply sewer account balance adjustments as credit in the amount of \$624,465.63

Discussion:

Councilman Mazzarella: I have a question on #9. Who is that for?

Mr. Laezza: The Holiday Inn. I was just going to explain it to you. When they added it into Edmonds on the computer, they added the water use into the computer twice.

Councilman Smith: For the record, we did not get that money and spend it and now have to give it back.

Mr. Laezza: Right. Most of these are errors are by the water company changing meters and things of that nature.

Council President Hund asked for a mover and second on this Consent Agenda
Motion: Toal Second: O'Connor

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Each person addressing the Council shall first give his/her name and address to the Clerk. All remarks shall be addressed to the Council as a body and shall not exceed 10 minutes in duration.

Seeing no one coming forward Councilman Toal made a motion to close the public portion of the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Albanese

Council President O'Connor directed roll call: All Ayes
Aye: Albanese, Mazzarella, Minniti, Smith, O'Connor, Toal, Hund

MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Bonaccorso: No comment.

Councilwoman Albanese: No comment.

Councilman Mazzarella: No comment.

Councilman Minniti: No comment.

Councilman O'Connor: I would actually like to thank the Clerk for the election information.

Township Clerk: You are welcome.

Councilman Smith: No comment.

Councilman Toal: Spoke about his first election in 1976.

Mr. Laezza: No comment.

Mark Dugan: No comment.

Council President Hund: No comment.

Council President Hund asked for a motion to adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Toal, seconded by Councilman O'Connor

ROLL CALL: All Ayes

Aye: Albanese, Mazzarella, Minniti, Smith, Toal, O'Connor, Hund

ADJOURNMENT