

COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
430 WESTFIELD AVE., CLARK, NJ
November 1, 2021
7:40 pm

ROLL CALL:

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

Also Present: James F. Ulrich, Business Administrator; Marc Sposato, Township Attorney;
Edith L. Merkel, Township Clerk

Absent: Mayor Bonaccorso

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG: MOMENT OF SILENCE

Dispensed

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 HAWK, 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. Discussion:** Resolution to opt in to Examination Exemption Civil Service Hiring Procedures for the Police Department

Mr. Ulrich: This is more of an administrative resolution that we have to put in. There is one potential police transfer candidate that is not in civil service, so what we need to do is pass this resolution...it is based on state law that has been at least, a couple of towns, I forgot which towns, but have used it. What we are going to do is bypass. So, this person went through the training, alternative route, and is a Kean security officer. What we want to do is bring them in as a transfer. One of the things is since they are not in civil service, we can't do a straight transfer. This is a process to bring them in outside of the civil service transfer process. Fully trained, through the alternative route, ready to hit the streets with training. So, it is just like any other transfer, it is just that the person is not in civil service and we have to go through this process.

Councilman O'Connor: So, it would have no bearing on the PBA?

Mr. Ulrich: No.

Councilman O'Connor: It has nothing to do with it?

Mr. Ulrich: Nothing to do with the PBA, it has to do with civil service.

Councilman Mazzarella: Every time that you have to do this, do you have to go through this process?

Mr. Ulrich: We have two ways of doing it. We don't think that we are going to have to do this often, but we have had the discussion that we could actually put in an ordinance at the same time.

This is the first time that this is happening, so if we see that it will be some type of reoccurring process then we would have to institute an ordinance. But, right now, we will just do it by resolution. You could do it both by resolution, or an ordinance, and we are going to do this one by a resolution and see where it goes from there.

Councilman O'Connor: Is this monitored by the state on how many times you do that?

Mr. Ulrich: It is not limited.

Councilman Toal: Is the transfer coming in as a patrol officer, or of a higher rank?

Mr. Ulrich: No, all of the transfers are patrol officers.

Councilman Toal: What are our numbers now for the police?

Mr. Ulrich: I don't know what that numbers is right now.

Councilman Mazzearella: There are communities that just do mayoral appointments totally. In their infinite wisdom they create a resolution, or they can write an ordinance for that. We have always historically been civil service, but that is good that we are doing that.

Mr. Ulrich: All of the police officers have been vetted by the department across the street, in addition to the prosecutor's office that has been in. So, the lieutenant met with every single one of them, so it is a joint decision.

Councilman O'Connor: So basically, they will be trained it is just that they didn't take the test.

Mr. Ulrich: They are not a part of civil service, yes, correct. They did the alternative route in with Kean...but a perfect candidate.

Councilman Smith: I think our numbers with the police force was 40, and we raised it to 44, a few months back.

Mr. Ulrich: I don't know how many are there now though.

Councilman Smith: That was the maximum number 44, but I think that we are a few below that.

Mr. Ulrich: Yes, we are below that.

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

Mover: Hund Second: Mazzearella

2. Approving the Council Meeting Calendar for 2022

Discussion: None

Township Clerk: If you notice on that resolution, as we do on alternate years, the Reorganization Meeting will be at 7 PM across the street in our formal meeting place, but it will be on January 3rd, not on the 1st.

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

Mover: O'Connor Second: Toal

3. Approving the 2022 Holiday Schedule

Discussion: None

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

Mover: Toal Second: Smith

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS:

4. Authorizing the Tax Collector to refund overpayment of 2021 taxes in the amount of \$16,878.30

Discussion: None

5. Authorizing the Tax Collector to refund overpayment of 2021 sewer fees in the amount of \$158.90

Discussion: None

Council President Hund asked for a mover and second on this Consent Agenda

Mover: Toal Second: O'Connor

Township Clerk: Excuse me one second. Did you (Mr. Ulrich) want to bring up the two ordinances?

Mr. Ulrich: Just an addition that we are going to have at the meeting in two weeks. We are going to adopt the RVSA. All of the questions have been asked, and we are also going to rescind the current agreement that we have. So, we need to do it this month and we need to do it next month. So, that is going to be added to the agenda for when we meet next time. The same terms and everything that you have seen last time. If anybody needs another copy or wants the cliff notes, we have them. The only town that has not passed it, other than us, is Roselle Park. One of the things that we were doing was waiting until everybody passes it because we did not want to rescind it with our favorable agreement that we have had with the RVSA to be able to use the money to improve our sewer system. So, I spoke to the Business Administrator of Roselle Park today, they are adopting it on the 9th, so we are safe by rescinding it and adopting the new agreement.

Council President Hund asked for a mover and second on the **RVSA New Agreement Ordinance**

Mover: Mazzarella Second: Smith

Council President Hund asked for a mover and second on the **RVSA rescinding the Old Agreement Ordinance**

Mover: Mazzarella Second: Smith

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 Smith made a motion to close the public portion of the meeting, seconded by Councilman Toal

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

MAYOR, COUNCIL AND PROFESSIONAL COMMENTS:

Councilman Mazzarella: No comments.

Councilman O'Connor: No comments.

Councilman Smith: No comments.

Councilman Toal: I wanted to commend Ralph Bernardo, the entire Recreation Department, the PBA 125, the mayor's office, and everyone that participated in yesterdays Truck or Treat. It was the most organized and well-run function. When you left the facility there were no kids at the houses, they were all here. So, it was a great, great event. Kudos to the police, Ralph Bernardo and the mayor's office.

Council President Hund: Councilman O'Connor would like come back to make a comment.

Councilman O'Connor: Thank you very much. I actually want to thank Edie, in advance, for the long day her and her team are going to be in for tomorrow. I know it is Election Day, and I know how crazy things get. How many bags that you have in your office?

Township Clerk: The bags are so heavy now that we have our Department of Public Works bringing them to the polling places, the poll workers can not lift these things, nor can they fit them in their car.

Councilman O'Connor: How did we do with poll workers this year?

Township Clerk: We have a lot of new ones.

Councilman O'Connor: You are in for a busy day tomorrow.

Township Clerk: I am going to leave my house at 4:30 tomorrow morning.

Councilman O'Connor: What time will you get home?

Township Clerk: 10 PM.

Councilman O'Connor: Thank you in advance.

Township Clerk: The poll workers make an extra \$100.

Councilman O'Connor: Thank you to you and your team.

Township Clerk: Thank you Pat.

Mr. Sposato: No comment.

Mr. Ulrich: The only thing that I want to add is that the administration knows all the pain about recycling and what is going on. We are looking into different options; we are having daily discussions with PMUA on how we are going to resolve this. It is not going to be a super quick fix; we will be addressing it as time goes on. So, if you constituents call you, or have issues, or concerns, assure them that we are working on it. It is a much bigger issue than just Clark, they are having issues in surrounding towns because of the same problems with getting parts and staffing. We are looking at the options, and we are having discussions, and we will rectify this as soon as possible.

Council President Hund: Thank you for that update. The residents are extremely concerned about that.

Mr. Ulrich: And again, it is not that it is once or twice, it has been an extended issue and we completely understand.

Township Clerk: No comments.

Council President Hund: I would like to thank Ralph, and the mayor, and everyone else that participated yesterday in the Trunk or Treat. It was, as I saw when I drove by, extremely crowded and that is fantastic.

Council President Hund asked for a motion to adjourn
A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Toal, seconded by Councilman Smith

ROLL CALL: All Ayes
Aye: Mazzarella, Smith, O'Connor, Toal, Hund

ADJOURNMENT