

MINUTES
FOUNTAIN HILL BOROUGH COUNCIL
November 3, 2008
7:00 P. M.

President Rapp called the meeting to order. Pledge of Allegiance followed. Attendance as follows: Mr. Rapp, Mr. Blatt, Jr., Ms. Halleman, Ms. Gifford-Elkington, Mr. Capuano, Mr. Trotter, Jr., and Mr. Grotenhuis. Others: Mayor Ned Fink, Ms. Barbara Merkle, Acting Executive Secretary; Mr. Donald Lipson, Esquire, Solicitor; Chief of Police Timothy Stephens; Mr. Gus Entler, Public Works Supervisor; Ms. Sook Choi, Director of Finance; Mr. Joseph Gatta, Zoning Officer; Mr. Robert Erland, St. Luke's Hospital Liaison; Bethlehem Press.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a Motion by Ms. Gifford and seconded by Mr. Capuano, the minutes of the October 6, 2008 Regular Council meeting were approved by unanimous voice vote.

On a Motion by Mr. Trotter and seconded by Mr. Grotenhuis, the minutes of the October 22, 2008 Special Meeting, were approved by unanimous voice vote.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Anne Redding of 911 N. Bergen Street spoke about the parking tickets being issued in her neighborhood and the parking problem. She questioned about having lines painted so that they will know where they can park. A discussion ensued between Anne Redding, Council Members, Mayor Fink and Chief Stephens.

Cecelia Roba of 625 Norway Court spoke about the problem she is having with the school busses running over her curb and ruining her curb. She is looking for a solution to the parking situation at the school so that the busses will be able to make their turn without hitting her curb. A discussion ensued between Cecelia Roba, Council Members, Mayor Fink and Chief Stephens. President Rapp suggested setting up a meeting with the School Principal or School District to discuss this situation.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Fink read the abandoned vehicles reports for October 2008 assembled by Officer Hochwarter. Total abandoned vehicles reported-5; Cases Cleared-1; Cleared from Previous Month-2 Towed-1; Cited-0; Unfounded-0. Mayor Fink read the fines and tickets collected during the month of October 2008 totaling \$2,290.00. Mayor Fink did not read the Crime Report for October as Investigator Schrey was on vacation. Mayor Fink did not read the fines and code violations collected by District Judge Anthony Rapp as he did not have the report.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Council President Rapp said the curb cut at 1038 Seneca Street was approved by Chief Stephens and Public Works Supervisor Gus Entler. Mr. Blatt made a motion to approve the curb cut. The motion was seconded by Mr. Capuano and passed by unanimous voice vote.

Council President Rapp announced that he met with a representative from Lanta regarding the move of the Lanta Bus Stop from 1444 Broadway to 1502 Broadway in front of Carpeny's Garage. Lanta has agreed to put in a bench and a trash can at the bus stop. The Bus Shelter at 1444 Broadway should be removed by the end of the month. Ms. Gifford made a motion to approve the move of the Bus Stop. The motion was seconded by Ms. Halleman and passed by unanimous voice vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Capuano to adopt PMRS- Ordinance 748. The motion was seconded by Mr. Grotenhuis and passed by unanimous voice vote. Attorney Lipson advised that this was a first reading of Ordinance 748.

Council President Rapp said the renovations have started at the Police Department. Ms. Halleman made a motion to approve the contract from Knight Security. The motion was seconded by Mr. Blatt and passed by unanimous voice vote.

Council President Rapp brought up the first reading of Ordinance 749 – which is to remove a Handicap Sign at 1241 Russell. The house is vacant and the sign should be removed. Mr. Capuano made a motion to approve Ordinance 749. The motion was seconded by Ms. Gifford and was passed by unanimous voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Council President Rapp said he received a memo from Public Works Supervisor Gus Entler stating that the six month probation period for employee Francis DiMateo is over and he has obtained his CDL license. Mr. Capuano made a motion to retain Mr. DiMateo as a full time employee. The motion was seconded by Mr. Blatt and was passed by unanimous voice vote.

Council President Rapp said that Council received a letter from Mr. Brennan to assure us that \$95,000 of state funding for the Spiegel Street Storm Sewer Project has been approved and we will be receiving the grant from the State.

Council President Rapp thanked Mr. Capuano for the time that he spent on the Growing Green Fund Grant. The Borough will be getting a grant of \$200,000 from the County to acquire land.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

None

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

The three year trash Contract with Raritan Valley has now been signed.

The removal of the handicap sign at 1023 Broadway, Ordinance 738 has been advertised. Ms. Halleman made a motion to have the sign removed at 1023 Broadway. The motion was seconded by Mr. Grotenhuis and was passed by unanimous voice vote.

FINANCE COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Mr. Trotter read the Bills Payables for October 2008, for all of the funds: General Fund-\$252,979.62; Sewer Fund-\$43,303.96; Health & Sanitation Fund-\$42,021.91; Liquid Fuels Fund-\$0.

Mr. Trotter announced that the 2009 budget has been worked through and there will be no tax increase for the Borough residents in 2009. The 2009 budget is very tight and the Department Heads will have to stick to their budgets. Mr. Trotter made a motion to approve the bills paid. The motion was seconded by Mr. Capuano and passed by unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC WORK'S COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Capuano read the October 2008 report submitted by Mr. Entler. Mr. Capuano read the hours worked by the crew on the various activities listed for the month, total hours-658. s.

POLICE COMMITTEE'S REPORT

None

HOUSE COMMITTEE'S REPORT

None

FIRE COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Mr. Grotenhuis read a report for the month of October 2008 from the Fire Chief consisting of 22 calls, \$0 damages and 223 volunteer labor hours.

RECREATION COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Ms. Gifford advised that they are working on the annual Christmas Tree Lighting to be held on December 7, 2008.

HEALTH & SANITATION COMMITTEE

Ms. Halleman read the Sewer and Health & Sanitation report for the month of October 2008, as follows: Garbage Current- \$52,616.00; Garbage Delinquent-\$5,685.21; Recycling Containers-\$20; Grant Recycling-\$0. Total Garbage collections-\$58,321.21. Sewer Residential; Current \$50,654.43; Sewer Residential Delinquent- \$5,826.98; Commercial Current-\$12,252.06; Commercial Delinquent-\$0; Salisbury-\$0; Star Village Sewer Assessments-\$198.46; St. Luke's Hospital Pump House Reimbursement-\$0. Total Sewer collections-\$68,733.47. Grand Total-\$127,054.68.

SPECIAL OR SELECT COMMITTEES

Public Works Supervisor Gus Entler said that the Public Works Department is currently going around the Borough and picking up leaves.

Mr. Erland wanted to thank the Fountain Hill Police Department and the Fountain Hill Fire Department for a call they went out on for a Borough Resident in cardiac arrest and the fine medical assistance they provided to the Borough Resident.

SECOND PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. Francis Blonar of 1136 Russell Avenue spoke about the parking problems where he lives. A discussion ensued between Mr. Blonar, Council, Mayor Fink and Chief Stephens. Chief Stephens explained the rules of parking in front of a driveway.

Ms. Susan Skelly of 909 N. Bergen Street spoke about parking at 904 N. Bergen Street. At one time they were able to park there, but the owner of the property put in a depressed sidewalk and they can no longer park there. A discussion ensued between Ms. Skelly, Council and Mayor Fink. Ms. Skelly also questioned the number of apartments in 904 N. Bergen Street and how that area is zoned. A discussion ensued with Ms. Skelly and Mr. Gatta.

Mr. Francis Blonar of 1136 Russell Avenue spoke about an underground water way on Russell Avenue. There is a sinkhole forming on Russell Avenue. Mr. Blonar said he contacted Hanover Engineering to have this area checked. A discussion ensued between Mr. Blonar, Council and Mayor Fink. President Rapp asked Public Works Supervisor Gus Entler if he was aware of the sinkhole. Mr. Entler will check into the matter. President Rapp said he would contact Hanover Engineering to discuss this matter.

Ms. Anne Redding brought up a situation where in August of 2008 she came into the Borough Office and made a complaint with Mr. Gatta about the property at 910 Bergen Street. There is no handrail on the front porch of the steps to the apartment building. Mr. Gatta called the property owner at the time & was told by the property owner that she would correct the matter. The handrail still has not been installed. Mr. Gatta will follow up with the property owner about having the handrail installed.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Capuano and seconded by Ms. Gifford the meeting was adjourned. The time was 8:25 p. m.