

**MINUTES OF A MEETING
OF THE
MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Henry called the November 17, 2014 meeting of the Mayor and Council to order at 8:00p.m. in the Garabrant Center, 4 Wilson Street, Mendham, New Jersey.

INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Henry offered a moment of silent meditation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPENING STATEMENT

Notice of this meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mendham was published in the Observer Tribune and the Morristown Daily Record, and was posted on the Phoenix House bulletin board in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

ATTENDANCE: Mayor Neil Henry

Councilman Brad Badal
Councilman Stanley Witczak
Council President David Sharkey
Councilwoman Veronica Daly

Also present: Atty. Tracy Schnurr
Richard Merkt, Administrator
Borough Clerk Maureen Massey

Absent: Councilman Louis Garubo, Councilman John Andrus

CONSENT AGENDA:

Approval of the minutes of the regular session meeting of 11.3.14
Approval Off-Premise Draw Raffle (Merchandise)-2/17/15-Minutemen Sports Club
Approval Off-Premise Draw Raffle-50/50 Cash-4/21/15-Minutemen Sports Club

Motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Councilman Witczak
Seconded by Councilwoman Daly

Discussion: None

Roll Call – the vote was as follows:

In favor: Badal, Witczak, Sharkey, Daly

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Garubo, Andrus

DISCUSSION:

Risk Management Costs:

Administrator Merkt reported that after some research he wanted to update the Council that hiring a 'risk manager' is not without cost to the Borough. He estimated that it could cost 5% or more of the total premium paid by the municipality. Mr. Merkt recommended inviting Mr. Covelli of Professional Insurance Associates to an upcoming Council meeting for discussion and to offer a comfort level to councilmembers. It was noted that a risk manager carries all the liability for municipality. It was suggested that if the Council decides to entertain this venture, that at least three selections are made for the governing body to review.

Mr. Merkt also reported that he can arrange for a Mr. Kelly to offer training to the governing body on this topic which will result in a \$250 per member credit off our premiums to the JIF. The Council was acceptable to this suggestion and requested Mr. Merkt to make the arrangements.

Peggnnet Cabling Upgrade Proposal:

Mr. Merkt has upgrading the Borough's cabling capabilities with the owner of Peggnnet who is waiting for proposals from two suppliers. This will be pended for two weeks by the Administrator at which time there will be a follow up.

It was suggested that the Administrator seek proposals from two or more IT providers for the governing body to review.

ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN: (A copy of the resolution is attached to the minutes)

Res. #150-14 Approval of Sanitary Sewer Application for Block 801, Lot 20

Motion to adopt Resolution #150-14 was made by Councilman Witczak

Seconded by Councilman Sharkey

Discussion: None

Roll Call – the vote was as follows:

In favor: Badal, Witczak, Sharkey, Daly

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Garubo, Andrus

Res. #151-14 Release cash bond- Block 705, Lot 8

Motion to adopt Resolution #151-14 was made by Councilman Badal

Seconded by Councilwoman Daly

Discussion: None

Roll Call – the vote was as follows:

In favor: Badal, Witczak, Sharkey, Daly

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Garubo, Andrus

Res. #153-14 Tax Appeal Settlement

Motion to adopt Resolution #153-14 was made by Councilman Witczak

Seconded by Councilman Badal

Discussion: None

Roll Call – the vote was as follows:

In favor: Witczak, Sharkey, Daly, Badal

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Garubo, Andrus

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Administrator Merkt has summarized for the Mayor and Council items he has addressed and those that are a work in progress. The Mayor commented that it was a very good report. The administrator summarized his report by highlighting the conclusion of transition assistance by Mr. Casey by the end of the month; a new Borough Clerk search; 2015 budget requests almost complete (with the exception of the joint court with Chester Borough); completion of a 2015 budget draft by December 1st and the first meeting with the PBA on contract talks.

Mayor Henry noted that there is a department budget meeting held in the month of December on a Saturday morning. Mr. Merkt will contact the finance chairman to discuss scheduling.

The Mayor asked for questions from the governing body. Councilman Sharkey asked if the court costs with Chester have yielded the anticipated savings. Mr. Merkt responded that he viewed one bill received and it yielded the % agreed to. He further reported that there maybe another municipality requesting to be considered part of the system. It was noted that if this did take place than the benefit to the Borough would be even greater. Mr. Merkt will review bills received from the court and report back to the Council.

COUNCIL REPORTS, OLD & NEW BUSINESS:

Councilman Witczak reported that the salt dome roof repair at the Department of Public Works has been completed. Leaf pickup at the park has been done; 7 tons of black top has been applied; and the interviews for a custodian are in the process.

Administrator Merkt complimented Ken O'Brien and staff for applying the brine to the roads the other evening costing approximately \$1700 in materials. The savings of approximately \$3,000 if Mr. O'Brien had decided to wait like other municipalities and had to apply salt instead.

Councilman Sharkey noted that the Planning Board is viewing plans on the Kings Shopping Center reconstruction project which is considering the expansion of the 'foot print'.

Councilwoman Daly reported on her meeting with Mr. Merkt to chart direction for our personnel and develop a work plan, while reviewing present job descriptions.

Councilman Badal noted that the CERT Team has 8 Borough residents signed up for training this weekend. He further commented that 2 police officers are scheduled back to work; December 1st the other January 1st.

ATTORNEY ITEMS: There was no report.

MAYOR'S ITEMS:

The Mayor and Council entered into the Executive Session at 6:05 p.m.
They reconvened from the Executive Session at 7:10 p.m.

On a motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the Council returned to open session

Mayor Henry asked the governing body what date they would prefer for reorganization. It was decided to change the January 1st date to January 6th (Tuesday) at 7PM at the Mendham Borough Fire House.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No one from the public wished to be heard.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS:

Minute Book Attachment Bill List dated November 17, 2014
Motion to approve the November 17, 2014 bill list was made by Councilman Witczak
Second by Councilman Sharkey
Discussion: None
In favor: Badal, Witczak, Sharkey, Daly
Opposed: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Garubo, Andrus

Res. #152-14 Executive Session: Personnel, Contract Negotiations, Land Acquisition
(PBA, Registrar Position, Scott Farm)

Motion to adopt Resolution #152-14 was made by Councilman Badal
Seconded by Councilwoman Daly
Discussion: None
Roll Call – the vote was as follows:
In favor: Badal, Witczak, Sharkey, Daly
Opposed: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Garubo, Andrus
They reconvened from the Executive Session at 8:46 p.m.
On a motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the Council returned to open session

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business scheduled for the consideration of the Mayor and Council at this time, on a motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried by a voice vote, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:50P.M. next to convene at the Regular Meeting on December 1, 2014 at 8:00 P.M. at the Garabrant Center, 4 Wilson Street, Mendham, New Jersey 07945.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Massey, RMC, CMC
Borough Clerk