

**TOWNSHIP OF BERKELEY HEIGHTS
UNION COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
COUNCIL MEETING HELD JANUARY 6, 2015**

CALL TO ORDER

At 7:02 p.m., Mayor Woodruff called the meeting to order and stated that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by posting the same on the bulletin board of Town Hall and forwarding a copy to the Courier News and Star Ledger at least forty-eight hours prior to the meeting, all in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. This meeting will not go substantially past 10:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Delia, Mr. Faecher, Mr. Hall, Mrs. Kingsley, Mr. Pirone, Mr. Pastore, and Mayor Woodruff answered present. Also present was Township Attorney Joseph Sordillo, Township Administrator John Bussicula and Township Clerk Ana Minkoff.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Contract Negotiations/Land Acquisition-Little Flower Church

Meeting CD did not start recording until 7:46 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE

Mayor Woodruff asked everyone present to stand as he led the Flag Salute.

CONFERENCE SESSION –

Mayor Woodruff asked Mr. Bussicula if there was going to be a conference session with Mr. McAndrew. Mr. Bussicula replied that the conference session with Mr. McAndrew (of the Water Pollution Control Plant) would be delayed (as more research is needed and “some things had come up.”)

The Mayor asked if there was anything for conference session. Mr. Pirone spoke about being approached approximately 18 months ago from residents on Sussex Drive. Their reason for approaching Council was because high school students were parking on both sides of Sussex Drive. Mr. Pirone spoke about the traffic study as well as the delay in responding to this issue. He suggested that the Council move on this matter, i.e., decide that there is no parking in a particular hour on school days on one side of Sussex Drive (similar to other streets in the area.) Mr. Pirone suggested a straw vote to see if he could move forward with our attorney and make this simple change. Discussion then ensued among Council regarding Mr. Pirone’s proposal, i.e., mirroring nearby streets’ practices, responding to the recommendations of the Police Department and the Harbor Consultants’ Traffic Study, determining which side of Sussex Drive to close, the Board of Education adding 35 additional parking spots in January, not waiting/waiting to move on this issue, moving thoroughly (i.e., from safety and planning points of view) with a public road, and emergency vehicle access considerations. The specific issue for the straw vote was clarified, i.e., could Mr. Pirone work with the Township’s Lawyer to determine if the no parking during school days for an hour and a half could now apply to Sussex Drive. Before the straw vote was taken, Mr. Faecher said he would like to study the issue (as his vote right now would be no.) The straw vote occurred: Mr. Delia and Mr. Pirone were in favor with Mr. Pirone working with the attorney to revise the parking situation for Sussex Drive. Voting against this action were Mr. Hall, Mrs. Kingsley, Mr. Pastore and Mr. Faecher. Mr. Faecher stated that his vote may change upon review of the matter.

**Township Council Minutes
Public Meeting – January 6, 2015**

Mr. Bussiculo stated that a resident called several times regarding this issue, specifically why hasn't anything been done. Mr. Hall recommended finding out what the Board of Education has done (i.e., need clarification) as well as asked that the Chief of Police reach out to Lieutenant Deitch regarding this issue (i.e., is there anecdotal evidence as to whether the situation has improved/worsened.) Discussion then ensued on the timing of moving forward with this issue, (i.e., next meeting.)

Moved by Mr. Pirone to close the conference session and seconded by Mrs. Kingsley and upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Delia, Mr. Faecher, Mr. Hall, Mr. Pastore, Mr. Pirone and Mrs. Kingsley

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

TOWNSHIP COUNCIL REPORTS

Mr. Delia – Mr. Delia saw what seemed to be County workers at the storm sewer near the corner of Plainfield and Springfield. This sewer has been filled for about three years. Mr. Delia saw a worker who simply put some plastic traffic cones down near the sewer. The sewer is still clogged. Discussion ensued about making a call to the County. Mr. Delia continued that this has been going on for 3 years and recommended that the sewer be jetted.

Mr. Hall – Mr. Hall had nothing to report.

Mr. Faecher – Mr. Faecher had nothing to report.

Mr. Pirone – Mr. Pirone had nothing to report.

Mr. Pastore – Mr. Pastore attended the Firemen's dinner. They did an excellent job and had a very nice presentation.

Mrs. Kingsley – Mrs. Kingsley had nothing to report.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

Mayor Woodruff – The Mayor reported that he, and some others from the dais, attended the Fire Department event and congratulated the officers who were sworn in. The Mayor also reported that this past Monday, the Mayor and Mr. Bussiculo visited the Department of Public Works (DPW.) The Mayor and Mr. Bussiculo are going to try visit each department early in this New Year. The meeting with DPW was very good. The purpose of the meeting was multifold which included reporting of procedures. The Mayor stated that he conveyed to DPW that this Council is committed to getting, subject to the constraints of the budget, the materials and machinery needed to serve the people of Berkeley Heights, and that we are both here to serve the people of Berkeley Heights. He further advised that this elected body 1) would not be micromanaging the DPW or any other Department, 2) there would be oversight and accountability, and 3) that the elected body has great faith in the supervisors in Berkeley Heights. Tomorrow the Mayor is headed to the Sewer Department for a similar meeting.

Mr. Bussiculo – Mr. Bussiculo followed up on a question raised at an earlier Council meeting about the lights at Snyder. Our Recreation Director checks with sports team and activity schedules each day and then sets the light timer appropriately. In regards to who pays for the lighting, Mr. Bussiculo stated that the County does (but added, indirectly, we all do.) Mr. Bussiculo also added these Township updates: 1) In regards to the hot box, 120 potholes have been filled and pothole filling will continue, as weather permits. 2) There was a final sweep of town leaf pick up on January 2nd and January 5th. 3) All catch

**Township Council Minutes
Public Meeting – January 6, 2015**

basins are being marked to assist in finding them during snow pileup. 4) Mr. Patterson is going to have a rough draft of our handbook in the next day or so. 5) There is a salt delivery expected to the dome tomorrow. Finally, Mr. Bussiculo asked the Mayor to evaluate rail transit parking fees (surrounding town fees were provided to the Mayor.) Discussion ensued as to a possible fee increase, keeping fee increases in line with the cost of living, keeping fees reasonable, raising fees every year, obtaining Gillette, Stirling and Millington's parking fees, and whether comparison communities had train stations (buildings where you can sit in.)

The Mayor asked for a motion to accept all Township Council and Administration Reports.

Moved by Mr. Pirone to accept and approve the Township Council and Administration Reports, seconded by Mrs. Kingsley and upon roll call vote.

Ayes: Mr. Delia, Mr. Faecher, Mr. Hall, Mr. Pastore, Mr. Pirone and Mrs. Kingsley
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

HEARING ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

Moved by Mr. Delia to open the Hearing on Agenda Items Only, seconded by Mr. Pastore and upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Delia, Mr. Faecher, Mr. Hall, Mrs. Kingsley, Mr. Pastore, and Mr. Pirone
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Tom Foregger of 14 Dorsett Road, asked about the Ramentol Resolution, specifically the discrepancy between the Resolution fee and the budget. Discussion ensued regarding temporary budget numbers and the extension of the 2014 contract.

Hearing no voices, moved by Mr. Delia to close the Citizens' Hearing on Agenda Items Only, seconded by Mr. Pirone and upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Delia, Mr. Faecher, Mr. Hall, Mrs. Kingsley, Mr. Pastore and Mr. Pirone
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

NEW BUSINESS- RESOLUTIONS

OFFICIAL ACTION WILL BE TAKEN ON THE FOLLOWING:

RESOLUTIONS

Mr. Faecher introduced the following resolution:

1. Resolution authorizing a Shared Services Agreement with the Borough of Madison for the provision of IT Services for the Township.

**Township Council Minutes
Public Meeting – January 6, 2015**

Mr. Faecher commended the use of Shared Services. He asked Mr. Bussiculo regarding the historical use of IT shared services with the County. Mr. Bussiculo noted that Union County stopped offering IT services (they used to offer services for about \$8,000/year). Mr. Bussiculo said that the Township went out to bid and received bids ranging between \$20,000 and \$25,000. Last year, we spent about \$10,000 with the Borough of Madison for IT Shared Services. Discussion ensued regarding some terms of the Agreement, including the \$500 base charge, amending line item number 1, and service calls for less than 15 minutes (now no charge.) Mr. Faecher confirmed that we can terminate this Agreement within 30 days if desired.

Moved by Mr. Faecher to approve resolution #1, seconded by Mrs. Kingsley and upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Delia, Mr. Faecher, Mr. Hall, Mrs. Kingsley, Mr. Pastore and Mr. Pirone
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Mr. Hall introduced the following resolution:

2. Resolution authorizing a Professional Services Agreement with James J. Ramentol, AIA, and GRA Architects, Inc. for professional architectural services.

Moved by Mr. Hall to approve resolution #2, seconded by Mrs. Kingsley and upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Delia, Mr. Faecher, Mr. Hall, Mrs. Kingsley, Mr. Pastore, and Mr. Pirone
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Mrs. Kingsley introduced the following resolution:

3. Resolution appointing John T. Bussiculo as Township Administrator.

Moved by Mrs. Kingsley to approve resolution #3, seconded by Mr. Hall and upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Delia, Mr. Faecher, Mr. Hall, Mrs. Kingsley, Mr. Pastore and Mr. Pirone
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Mr. Pirone introduced the following resolution:

4. Resolution authorizing the professional services contract with Van Cleef for the provision of on-call licensed operator (S-4) services for the Township Water Pollution Control plant from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015.

Moved by Mr. Pirone to approve resolution #4, seconded by Mr. Pastore and upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Delia, Mr. Faecher, Mr. Hall, Mrs. Kingsley, Mr. Pastore and Mr. Pirone
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

**Township Council Minutes
Public Meeting – January 6, 2015**

CONSENT AGENDA

All matters listed under Consent Agenda are considered routine by the Township Council and will be enacted upon by one motion; there will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

Mr. Pastore introduced the following resolutions:

- a. Resolution removing James Feakes, 18 Hamilton Avenue, Berkeley Heights, from the active duty roster of the Berkeley Heights Fire Department.
- b. Resolution removing Matt Ward, 11 Raleigh Court, Berkeley Heights, from the active duty roster of the Berkeley Heights Fire Department.

Moved by Mr. Pastore to approve Consent Agenda items a through b, seconded by Mr. Hall, and upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Delia, Mr. Faecher, Mr. Hall, Mrs. Kingsley, Mr. Pastore and Mr. Pirone
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

CITIZENS HEARING

Moved by Mr. Delia to open the Citizens hearing, seconded by Mrs. Kingsley and upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Delia, Mr. Faecher, Mr. Hall, Mrs. Kingsley, Mr. Pastore and Mr. Pirone
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Gerald Kuzmik of 18 Eaton Court asked what was the progress on conversations regarding cleaning of the river. Mr. Hall responded that he did not have an update this evening. Mr. Bussiculo asked to interject and noted that the last conversation with the County was several weeks ago during which we gave them river entry points. Mr. Bussiculo said he would follow up with the County as to what the next steps are, but things are proceeding.

Mr. Kuzmik understands that the DPW is busy with their schedules and potholes. He read in today's newspaper (The Star Ledger) about a Somerset County depository to collect Christmas trees. Mr. Kuzmik asked whether we should consider addressing a collection spot for Christmas trees? Discussion ensued about our current tree policy (i.e., leaving trees at the curbside, the private hauler tree collection fee, whether Somerset County would allow Berkeley Heights' residents to drop off their trees, and whether DPW picks up Christmas trees (no, only leaves and tree chippings.) Mr. Kuzmik suggested the Council address the Christmas tree pickup issue. Mr. Bocchino responded that he and Jorge were just recently discussing the Christmas tree pickup issue and possible options. The discussion closed with a suggestion (Mrs. Kingsley) to add a website reminder about the availability of disposable company tree pickup.

Steven Yellen of 130 Dogwood Lane wished Mayor and Council the "best" in the year ahead and good luck to all.

**Township Council Minutes
Public Meeting – January 6, 2015**

Hearing no voices, moved by Mr. Delia to close the Citizens Hearing, seconded by Mr. Hall and upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Mr. Delia, Mr. Faecher, Mr. Hall, Mrs. Kingsley, Mr. Pastore and Mr. Pirone
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Pastore to adjourn, seconded by Mrs. Kingsley and upon roll call vote
(8:37 p.m.)

Ayes: Mr. Delia, Mr. Faecher, Mr. Hall, Mrs. Kingsley, Mr. Pastore and Mr. Pirone
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Approved: March 24, 2015