

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MAY 22, 2007

ATTENDANCE:

Councilman Kelly
Councilwoman Riley
Councilman Spence
Pres. Salvatore
Mayor Begley
Administrator Liston
Administrative Assist. Jackson
Mun. Solicitors Baker/Bertram

CALLED TO ORDER: Pres. Salvatore

INVOCATION: Mun. Clerk Darlene Richmond

TOPICS:

South Jersey Gas – Pres. Salvatore asked if Council had any concerns regarding the presentation by Mike Halter for clean up by South Jersey Gas Company.

Discussion concerning the time frame needed and concern over being done the same time of bridge construction the congestion that would be generated if done at same time.

Pres. Salvatore stated he would talk to them about the concerns presented by council.

WSNJ – Pres. Salvatore informed council of new time slot would be once a month for an hour and it would be during day time hours. This would start the month of August, Council agreed.

Tickets – Pres. Salvatore questioned the possibility of tickets not being able to be paid. Solicitor and Administrator explained the problem being court it must appear on the schedule of violations first.

Agenda – Clerk presented items for the next council meeting of June 5, 2007.

Solicitor presented Ordinance and Resolution regarding payment for registration fees pursuant to section 277-12 to June 30 for the year 2007. It was agreed to place the Ordinance the agenda for June 5, 2007 and to act on the Resolution this evening.

Chamber of Commerce Membership – Council agreed to join, turned over to Administrator for payment.

Memorial Day Parade – Council was informed those planning to participate, that it will be starting 10 a.m. from Morningside Bridgeton Veterans Memorial Park, May 28, 2007.

Application Block off E. Commerce Street- Clerk presented application received to block off a portion of East Commerce Street on July 21, 2007 from St. Andrew's Episcopal Church to Pine

Street for sharing with the community event (donation of clothes, food, and children activities) from 12 noon to 7 p.m. submitted by Rev. Leonardo Melendez from Camindo A La Salvation, 186 East Commerce Street.

Discussion concerning same was entered in at the conclusion of which Administrator is to investigate safety aspects and report back prior to Council's decision.

NJDOT Grant Application for Centers of Place – Administrator reported that Engineer has not identified any bike path areas at the present time, it was suggested that they may coordinate areas with the County.

Taxi Cab Rate- Pres. Salvatore brought up the request from GO US Cab for an increase on rates. The Administrator distributed chart with a suggested increase amount of 42.50% increase over the 12 years which was the last increase given. Council asked clerk to contract GO US Cab and inform them on the increase amount suggested.

Flowers Park Entrance- Clerk informed Council of called regarding the condition of the park entrance flower garden with the Memorial Day Celebration soon coming. Discussion concerning the matter was entered into that RFP was to be advertised for organizations desiring to advertise their business by taking care of various garden areas, this not having been done, Councilwoman Riley stated she would try to obtain donations and have it taken care of by Memorial Day celebration.

Alarm Ordinance – Administrator stated that the solicitor is preparing an alarm ordinance for next council meeting regarding police response to false alarms – Discussion concerning the number of false alarms responded to and how busy answering same during the year was questioned, Administrator is obtain the information for Council.

Resolution request from Planning Board – Administrator stated resolution requesting Planning Board to designate rehabilitation area this would enable the City to negotiate redevelopment of area and allow PILOT agreements.

Ordinance amending Chapter 370- Mixed residential district redevelopment area is being held for revision.

Abandoned Properties Rehabilitation Act – Pres. Salvatore has asked the Solicitor to review ordinance from Millville regarding abandoned properties and Administrator also to look into the issue.

Sewer/Water Rates – Pres. Salvatore brought to Council's attention the Memo received concerning the increase of sewer/water rates. Mr. John Wuzzardo Director Water/Sewer elaborated upon increase. It was agreed the Ordinance would be introduced at June 15, 2007 meeting.

Post Article concerning Prison – Councilman Kelly stated he read an article in the Post that concerned him stating that the Mayor said yes for an increase of 1100 beds to the South Wood

Prison facility and we are trying to develop our community and this would be negative approach and also would be against what we demonstrated during the rally on Saturday. Mayor responded that he said yes if it was mandated and we would receive compensation. Councilman Kelly requested a letter or resolution be sent to the Governor and State Legislators that we are against the increase.

Litigation – Councilwoman Riley asked the results of a City case in court and Solicitor responded that it was thrown out.

Parking Cohansey/Oak Streets – Councilman Spence posed question regarding the parking. He was informed the Cohansey Street parking is for no parking and the Oak Street parking was for public safety and includes towing possibility. Pres. Salvatore stated that the Solicitor will send a letter to the School Board regarding Oak Street parking for the possibility of using their parking lot with a certain time frame open for the residents.

PUBLIC PORTION

Upon motion by Mr. Kelly and second by Mr. Spence to open the work session to the public for any one desiring to address council at this time, which motion was carried.

Pres. Salvatore opened the meeting to the public.

Ms. Andrea Gillis, Division Street, registered complaint concerning gangs and the need of more police officers along with Ms. Valerie Govan.

Mrs. Turpin, Ewing Street, registered complaint regarding painted yellow curbing difficult to pick up her handicapped sister and received tickets, also citation she received in regards to siding that blew off her home and parking in her back yard.

David Schoch, Fire Chief, informed council new ambulance out front of City Hall if they would like to see it.

Mr. Ellis McPherson, Elm Street, registered complaint concerning refrigerated truck being parked on the old Agway parking lot creating loud disturbing noise.

Mr. Wayne Stewart, East Avenue, commented on gang problem and speeding on East Avenue and more police needed.

No one else desiring to be heard, it was moved by Mr. Kelly and second by Ms. Riley to close the public portion of the work session which motion was carried.

Pres. Salvatore closed the public portion of the work session.

Upon motion by Mr. Kelly and second by Mr. Spence

RESOLUTION NO.273-06, extending payment of registration fees pursuant to Section 277-12 to June 30 for the year 2007, was adopted by unanimous roll call vote. The original resolution may be found in the Resolution Book.

There being no further items of discussion to come before Council, it was moved by Mr. Kelly and second Mr. Spence to adjourn the work session which motion was carried.

Pres. Salvatore adjourned the work session.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene J. Richmond, RMC
Municipal Clerk

APPROVED:

Council President
Nicholas Salvatore
Date: _____