



**BOROUGH OF FAIR LAWN
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES

WORK SESSION**

WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 8, 2022

Mayor Peluso called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting, giving the time, date and information for accessing this public meeting, was sent to 'The Record' on March 2, 2022, was posted on the bulletin board located on the 1st floor of the Municipal Building, was filed in the Office of the Municipal Clerk, and was posted on the Borough's website.

PRESENT: Mayor Peluso, Deputy Mayor Cutrone, Deputy Mayor of Community Affairs Krause and Councilmembers Reinitz and Rottenstrich.

ALSO PRESENT: Manager Van Kruijning, Acting Municipal Clerk Magarelli and Attorney Verrone.

REVIEW OF 2022 RIVER ROAD AND BROADWAY SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT BUDGETS

Representatives from the River Road and Broadway Special Improvement Districts, Rich Noorigian and Dan Ackerman, were present to answer questions.

Dan Ackerman discussed their focus in 2022, including the replacement of concrete planters on River Road with self-watering, sustainable planters and beautification projects such as new plantings, tree trimmings and the painting of benches and light poles to refresh the streetscape. They have kept funding for a Halloween event and some other events. Although he speaks to business owners when he goes through the district, they have not surveyed them.

Councilmember Reinitz expressed concern that nothing was earmarked towards helping food establishments and other businesses coming out of a pandemic. With rising costs, it is difficult to keep imposing assessments. They are talking about doing projects that should have been done five years ago. Investing in new flower planters is not their biggest issue. He did not see a lot of forward thinking.

Councilmember Rottenstrich asked why they haven't reached out to the director of their Main Street Program, as there is programming and collaborating that needs to be done. The Green Team would also like to work with Broadway

TRUST FUND GUIDELINES

Manager Van Kruijning stated they needed to determine income amounts based on the number of members in the family and the maximum amount on the gift cards from local businesses. He suggested doubling the income amounts and keeping the gift cards at \$25.00. Deputy Mayor Cutrone would like to have the Health Officer be required to make a decision within seven days, instead of 10 days.

There was a unanimous consensus to approve the recommendations above.

A finalized version of the Trust Fund Guidelines will be presented at the April Work Session.

NEWARK FRACKED GAS POWER PLANT OPPOSITION RESOLUTION

Mayor Peluso stated that the request from a resident has been rescinded.

AMENDMENTS TO HARDSHIP PARKING PERMIT ORDINANCE – VETERANS

Manager Van Kruijning referenced his correspondence of March 2, 2022, which included a request from the Veterans Liaison to allow veterans to pay half price for a hardship parking permit. The Police Chief has no concerns, nor did he. He recommended making the change.

There was a unanimous consensus to approve this amendment to the ordinance and introduce it at the March Council Meeting.

REVIEW OF RFQ SUBMISSIONS – ADMINISTRATIVE AGENT TO ADMINISTER AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONTROLS

Manager Van Kruijning referenced his email of March 3, 2022, which included the two responses to the above RFQ. He recommended using Development Directions, LLC. The services are paid through the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

There was a unanimous consensus to approve adding a resolution authorizing a contract with Development Directions, LLC.

AMENDMENTS TO RIVER ROAD SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT ORDINANCE

Manager Van Kruijning stated this pertains to the Assisted Living/Independent Living facility on River Road. They were rewording the ordinance to clarify language regarding the deletion of a property, which was then combined with two contiguous properties into one particular lot.

There was a unanimous consensus to approve the amendment.

OUTDOOR DINING

Manager Van Kruijning stated that Governor Murphy has extended outdoor dining through November 30, 2022, with additional criteria regarding sidewalk space, walking paths no less than four feet wide and the removal of fixtures at the end of the day.

Councilmember Rottenstrich expressed concern about businesses with outdoor dining taking away parking spaces from another business. Manager Van Kruijning stated that the property owner has to sign off on the application.

There was a unanimous consensus to approve outdoor dining through November 30, 2022, with the understanding that all applicants will need to file a new application.

STATE COURT SETTLEMENT

Manager Van Kruijning referenced his email dated March 3, 2022, which included a memo from Tax Assessor Henderson recommending they move forward with this settlement. The settlement will be paid using surplus funds.

There was a unanimous consensus to approve the settlement.

ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS:

Food Handling, Food Inspection, Tattoo Parlor, Cosmetology Inspection Fees Temporary Food Vendor's Permit Retail Food Establishments

Manager Van Kruijning asked the Council if there were any questions regarding the fees. He and Attorney Verrone will work on the language.

Councilmember Rottenstrich asked why they were doubling fees on small food markets and food establishments. Manager Van Kruijning stated the fees have not been increased since 2012. The amounts were recommended by the Health Officer and Inspectors, who found the new fees to be consistent with other towns. Further clarification will be needed for the daily permit process for temporary food vendors. The final draft will be presented at the April Work Session.

Councilmember Rottenstrich did not want the fees for the food establishments doubled. She would prefer a smaller increase.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS SPECIALIST SERVICES

Manager Van Kruijning stated that he was working on this with Attorney Verrone. The Council needs to confirm the types of services and under whose direction the person or firm will be working under.

There was a unanimous consensus to approve the services #1 through #8 listed on page nine and name the Mayor or his designee as the Borough contact person.

FAIR LAWN COMMUNITY CENTER

Councilmember Rottenstrich stated that the Sunrise Rotary Club will be holding its Service Above Self dinner at the Community Center on April 27, 2022. They are requesting that the fees be waived.

There was a unanimous consensus to waive the fees for the use of the Community Center by Sunrise Rotary on April 27, 2022.

FARMERS MARKET

Acting Municipal Clerk Magarelli stated the Farmers' Market would be held June 15th through November 23rd, as there is usually a good response pre-Thanksgiving.

There was a unanimous consensus to have the Farmers' Market during the above dates.

NEW BUSINESS

Manager Van Kruijning stated that he received a Local Finance Notice that beginning March 15th they must begin collecting the interest due on delinquent water bills, which was put on hold during the pandemic. Payment plans will be available.

Deputy Mayor Cutrone asked to add a Closed Session Meeting at their next Council Meeting to discuss a Zoning Board vacancy.

Manager Van Kruijning asked the Council if they wanted to remove the Plexiglas dividers on the dais.

There was a unanimous consensus to remove the dividers for the March Council Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor of Community Affairs Krause and a second by Councilmember Rottenstrich, the time for public comments was unanimously opened.

Joe Cebo, 10-03 5th Street felt they should be more transparent with their agendas. They keep referring to an Ordinance Banning Roosters, but they are also discussing the regulation of backyard chickens and it should be written as such. That topic might bring more comment from the public since roosters do not impact many residents. Deputy Mayor Cutrone stated it will be listed as such on the May Work session agenda, since she has now discussed her thoughts with the Council tonight. Prior to this, it has always been about banning roosters.

Mr. Cebo asked why they wanted to regulate chickens. He felt they were trying to address an issue that didn't exist. Deputy Mayor Cutrone stated she wanted to be proactive to prevent issues with disease, rodents and other issues that may come forth.

Councilmember Reinitz objected to Mr. Cebo implying the Council was dishonest in how agenda items were listed. Titles are just titles, but the actual ordinance is always part of the record. At the last meeting they allowed 45 minutes of public comment on this item. Mr. Cebo stated the first time this item was listed on the agenda it was entitled "An Ordinance Banning Roosters", but then the topic changed to a proposed ordinance, which went beyond just banning roosters. He felt the title on tonight's agenda should have modified to reflect that.

Pamela Coles, 13-34 George Street stated that she reviewed the Special Improvement Districts' Budgets and she agreed something has to be done. There are so many crown jewels in the town that the town itself should be considered a "crown jewel". The River Road and Broadway districts need to be beautified.

She asked for an update on the former Deals property. Mayor Peluso stated that the Planner has had a discussion with the Borough and the attorneys for the prospective buyer to work out a proposed plan. A presentation will be made to the Council at an upcoming public meeting. They have agreed to some of the recommendations made by the Council. Once they see the plans they will have a better idea of where they stand.

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor of Community Affairs Krause and a second by Deputy Mayor Cutrone, the time for public comments was unanimously closed.

RESOL. #111-2022: EXECUTIVE SESSION RESOLUTION – CLOSED SESSION OF MARCH 8, 2022

- a. Personnel matter pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b(8)

Motion to go into executive session to discuss matters exempt from the public as duly noticed by Resolution No. 111-2022 was moved by Councilmember Reinitz and seconded by Deputy Mayor Cutrone. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 5-0.

RECONVENE PUBLIC SESSION

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Cutrone and a second by Deputy Mayor of Community Affairs Krause, it was unanimously agreed to reconvene the meeting at 9:37 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor of Community Affairs Krause and a second by Deputy Mayor Cutrone, the Work Session was adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

The within minutes were duly approved by the Borough Council at their meeting of April 26, 2022, under Resolution 165-2022.



Nicholas J. Magarelli
Acting Municipal Clerk

The undersigned has read and approved the foregoing minutes.



Mayor Kurt Peluso