

January 17, 2013
Margate City, New Jersey

THE PRESS AND THE DOWNBEACH CURRENT WERE NOTIFIED OF THESE MEETINGS AND A COPY OF SAME WAS POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN CITY HALL AND ON THE WEBSITE

Bids were accepted and read aloud for *Landscaping throughout the City of Margate City* on January 15, 2013 with the following bid results Action Janitorial, Inc. 210 East Black Horse Pike, Pleasantville, NJ - \$49,890 and Designscape Landscaping, Inc., 704 New Road, Somers Point, NJ - \$69,985. Bids are under review by QPA and a recommendation of award will be given.

The work session of the Board of Commissioners was held on the above date at 4:00 p.m. & began with a flag salute and roll call: Mr. Becker, Mr. Blumberg, Ms. Taube were present. Mr. Deane, Mr. Abbott, Mr. Ricciotti, Mr. Verna, Chief Wolfson, Ms. Larkin, Mr. Rubin, Mr. Galantino, Ms. McLaughlin were present.

The meeting began with a moment of silence honoring former Mayor William H. Ross, III upon his death.

Reports:

Mr. Abbott: Discussion on 404 N. Lancaster Avenue property – City declared it abandoned and determined it to be an unsafe structure – tearing down allows sooner foreclosure on the property by the lien holder and the City to get demolition costs sooner – City must certify property as abandoned, tax collector, building inspector, and solicitor all involved – Mr. Galantino to move forward with arrangements; Discussion on 316 N. Thurlow Avenue- demolition can only occur if declared unsafe (private engineer did not deem it so) or unfit (process available for use by city per Chapter 98) – this will need more discussion but if papers served the owner can contest and take the city to court for resolution of the matter; details of UAS transfer from Board of Education (BOE) are being worked out; FEMA meeting today with neighboring communities to adjust V zone criteria

Mr. Becker: Transfer of City Clerk Office from Revenue & Finance to Public Safety due to lack of supervision by Mr. Blumberg/ allowed under NJSA40:72-6/ Mr. Becker believes there to be little communication and accountability by the Clerk's Office and will seek to change that/ Mr. Becker wants to transfer Aid to Hospitals, Board of Health, and Animal Regulation to Mr. Blumberg & do both by resolution tonight – Mr. Becker spoke to outside counsel (*who recommended the change*), the solicitor & Mr. Deane, Mr. Deane told Ms. Taube/Mr. Blumberg asked the following: potential effect on Mr. Hiltner's lawsuit – hostile work environment - against the city, to see the recommendation by the attorney (*Mr. Becker: not written only verbal*), any violation of the Walsh Act, why he wasn't contacted to discuss the matter prior to this change being suggested as it directly affects him, & what good this will do for the public. Mr. Blumberg also expressed concern that this action is usurping power by Mr. Becker and asked what's to stop more department transfers in the future. Mr. Blumberg confirmed (*by questioning*) that Mr. Hiltner nor Ms. Freed were directly addressed on this matter by Mr. Becker or anyone else, asked what connection the transferred departments have to the new department, & urged Ms. Taube to vote against the resolution for the sake of the city and the taxpayers .

Mr. Galantino: Moving department to UAS with the help of Public Works Dept., FEMA meetings are continuing (Ms. Taube suggested Margate be a host site on occasion)

Mr. Hiltner: Landscape bids were accepted with the low bid under review; County to bid on electricity & asked for approval to have city join (yes); asked for a copy for the City Clerk file on a recent study completed regarding 3rd party billing for permits issued by Building Dept. (Ms. Taube and Mr. Deane both have); asked for job description of project manager to be hired and if all civil service rules were followed in the hire (Mr. Blumberg opposed to this hire – irresponsible spending)

Mr. Deane: BOE has requested March 21st meeting with the commissioners to discuss school budget – Mr. Blumberg asked for a copy in advance of the meeting

Chief Wolfson: Preparing new and more complete signage for beach ends with beach rules

Mr. Rubin: Planning Board ordinance on tonight's agenda with a special meeting to adopt scheduled for January 31st

Ms. McLaughlin: Insurance brokers recommended renewing eye care contract with Horizon for 2 years @ existing rate of pay; Annual Debt Statement filed electronically; auditors in tomorrow to work on annual Financial Statement due at the end of the month; signed off on \$2 million costs for storm damage with more submissions to follow; bond counsel monitoring bond refinancing and may be on next agenda

Mr. Ricciotti: Holiday lighting down (Jerome Avenue be come down end of February); moving sand on beach and readying for tonight's storm advisory

Chief Tabasso: Administration moving back to Station #1; no working smoke detectors but no injuries at recent house fire

Mr. Blumberg: Expressed disappointment that Ms. Taube is hiring a new employee (Project Manager) without the budget in place, contract negotiations ongoing, and her expressed desire to save \$1 million in the new budget; suggested no new hire and have public works department perform street openings which will save \$60,000 and the new salary (*Ms. Taube explained 3 employees left and the new hire is a certified planner and floodplain specialist*)

Ms. Taube: Suggested Proclamation honoring Portia Parto for her volunteerism (*agreed*); asked to change February 14th meeting since she will be away

Public Comment: John Sewell: Table tonight's transfer of City Clerk Office until statutes reviewed; BA was hired to shrink payroll and costs but seems to be approving the opposite (*i.e. new hire*). Steve Altman: Asked for explanation of land ownership when city demolishes the house (*Mr. Abbott explained*); asked for beach block parking since all residents have earned it as a result of the recent hurricane. Sharon Simon: Opposed to new hire & suggested hiring him for one year not full time & only as a contracted employee; the proposed change in City Clerk Office should be open for the public to comment and not rushed into. Barbara Packman: Upsetting to see such discord within the commission; distressed over new hire before budget in place and should use public works department and engineer to perform work slated for PM; kudos to kindness of fire department personnel; hold off on City Clerk change until public has opportunity to comment. Art Cautili: Hold line on employee contracts; favors beach block parking.

On motion by Ms. Taube this portion was closed with a vote of three ayes.

On motion by Mr. Blumberg the meeting was adjourned with a vote of three ayes.

Board of Commissioners of the City of Margate City, New Jersey

Attest:

Thomas D. Hiltner, City Clerk