

September 18, 2013
Brigantine, New Jersey

A Council meeting was held this date in Council Chambers at 6:00 P.M. with Mayor Guenther presiding.

Present: Simpson, McClay, Picardi, DeLucry, Pullella, Kern, Guenther
Absent: None

Mayor Guenther led the flag salute after which Deputy Mayor Kern offered a brief prayer.

Mayor Guenther read the statement pertaining to the Open Public Meetings Act.

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Councilman Picardi moved, seconded by Councilwoman McClay to approve the Council Meeting Minutes 06/22/13 of and the Executive Session Minutes of 09/04/2013.

Roll Call: Simpson, McClay, Picardi, DeLucry, Pullella, Guenther: All "Yes".
Kern "Yes" on 06/22/2013 and "Abstain" on 09/04/2013.

Motion Carried.

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Councilman Picardi moved, seconded by Councilman DeLucry to approve the Requisition List, Operating Expenses and Payroll.

Roll Call: Simpson, McClay, Picardi, DeLucry, Pullella, Kern, Guenther: All "Yes".

Motion Carried.

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Mayors Proclamation: Constitution Week September 17-23, 2013.

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Mayor Guenther announced that there was another proclamation for the Catholic Daughters, but said that this was pulled from the agenda, but felt he wanted to support it anyway. Councilman DeLucry commented that the suggestion to remove the proclamation came about because council is not consistent in the way they issue proclamations, saying further that there are many groups and people that should be honored and he suggested doing this at the meeting before Thanksgiving.

Councilman Pullella moved, seconded by Councilman Simpson to approve the following proclamations.

Mayors Proclamation: Catholic Daughters of America Day

Roll Call: Simpson, DeLucry, Pullella, Guenther: "Yes"
McClay, Picardi, Kern: "No"

Motion Carried..

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Public comment on Agenda Items Only

John Pucci of 100 Sheridan Square questioned why council needed to approve the hiring of the Special Police Officer, when this person has been employed since September 10th and City Clerk Lynn Sweeney explained that she received the resolution for the last meeting and did not change the date on the resolution that was on the website saying that it has since been changed.

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Councilman DeLucry moved, seconded by Councilman Pullella to adopt the following ordinance and enter it into the ordinance book.

CITY OF BRIGANTINE
ORDINANCE NO. 10 OF 2013

BOND ORDINANCE – 2013 VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

John Pucci of 100 Sheridan Square asked for clarification on the following topics; details of bond ordinances placed on website, clarification on the type of fire truck discussed in the bond ordinance and the total received from insurance due to Superstorm Sandy. Ms. Blumenthal commented that she is working on the bond ordinance details on website, and that the fire truck was a pumper truck, and that they are still calculating the totals received from insurance.

Mayor Guenther commented that he would like to see a more detailed list of roads that are being considered for repair and Councilman DeLucry said that there are going to be recommendations made from the professionals and that is what council should base the projected projects on.

Roll Call: Simpson, McClay, Picardi, DeLucry, Pullella, Kern, Guenther: All “Yes”.

Motion Carried.

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Councilman Picardi moved, seconded by Councilman DeLucry to adopt the following resolution.

CITY OF BRIGANTINE
RESOLUTION 2013-122

NJ SAFE AND SECURE COMMUNITIES PROGRAM INSERTION OF
SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE

Roll Call: Simpson, McClay, Picardi, DeLucry, Pullella, Kern, Guenther: All “Yes”.

Motion Carried.

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Councilman Pullella moved, seconded by Councilman Simpson to adopt the following resolution.

CITY OF BRIGANTINE
RESOLUTION 2013-123

AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL POLICE OFFICERS

Roll Call: Simpson, McClay, Picardi, DeLucry, Pullella, Kern, Guenther: All “Yes”.

Motion Carried.

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Manager/Council/Committee Discussion: Countywide Tax Assessment, Installation of Synthetic Turf on Blvd.

A discussion took place regarding the countywide tax assessment program, prompting Mr. Scerni to say that there should be some form of the appeal process that stays at the county level, so homeowners do not have to go to Trenton.

By voice resolution, Councilman Kern moved, seconded by Councilman Picardi to have City Solicitor Fred Scerni to draft a resolution regarding participation in the countywide tax assessment program and present it for the next scheduled council meeting.

Roll Call: Simpson, McClay, Picardi, DeLucry, Pullella, Kern, Guenther: All "Yes".

Motion Carried.

City Engineer, Ed Stinson discussed the topic of installing synthetic turf on the Boulevard, saying that the safety of the Public Works employees was a main factor in why this is being discussed. The life span of the synthetic turf was discussed as well as cost factors.

Mayor Guenther announced that he has been in contact with the County Administrator in regards to the repairs at the seawall, saying that they anticipate the bid to go out for the design, in the very near future.

Mr. Scerni announced that the City Manager and Construction Official discussed a possible ordinance regarding demolition of abandoned properties, saying that there is a state statute that would permit a Municipality to take possession of abandoned properties.

Councilman Kern questioned what the process was for the agenda, as far as who creates and amends it and Mr. Scerni commented that under the operation of this government it was the Manager and City Clerk, but clarified his comment to say that he has seen no written policy stating such. Councilman Kern then asked if there was a formalized process for proclamations, asking how the Catholic Daughters Proclamation got onto the agenda and Mayor Guenther stated that they come through the Clerks Office and are placed on the agenda for review.

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Consent Agenda

Councilman Pullella moved, seconded by Councilman Simpson to adopt and approve the following requests.

Brigantine Elks Raffle License #673
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St. Thomas Mass Request
Atlantic County/Atlantic City Surf Fishing Request
St. Thomas Bon Fire Request

Roll Call: Simpson, McClay, Picardi, DeLucry, Pullella, Kern, Guenther: All "Yes".

Motion Carried.

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Public Comment

Joan Reese-Evans of 1419 Bayshore Avenue stated that she was hoping to see the bulkhead ordinance on tonight's agenda and questioned the status of the issue and Mr. Scerni commented that he is meeting with City professionals regarding the current ordinance and the issue of whether the City has the authority to require homeowners to make costly repairs or replacements to existing bulkheads.

Mike Feeley representing BrigStrong updated council on a project he is working on that involves living gardens being placed on rooftops.

Sally Sooy of 805 Bobby Jones Road asked about the results of a meeting, held in Atlantic City, of the DCA regarding shared services with Atlantic City, that the City Manager attended. The City Manager denied that she attended any meeting in Atlantic City with the DCA or that any representative of the City of Brigantine had.

Rose Roberts of 903 Sarazen Road commented that she feels that the council members should get to know the different service and religious organizations. Ms. Roberts then commented on Councilman DeLucry's tardiness to meetings.

John Pucci of 100 Sheridan Square commented on the capital projects ordinance saying that he felt the two month process is flawed.

Anne Phillips of 308 27th Street asked who the new Chief Financial Officer was and Ms. Blumenthal stated that she was a part time Chief Financial Officer named Peg Gorman, saying that she was selected not recommended by the DCA and that she is there temporarily but could become permanent. Ms. Phillips expressed her support for the bulkhead ordinance.

Anne Wenitsky of 4725 Atl-Brigantine Blvd. expressed her support for the possible astro turf on the center islands on the Boulevard, saying that appearance at the entrance to the Island is important.

Joan Reese-Evans of 1419 Bayshore Avenue further commented on the bulkhead ordinance, expressing the importance of it.

Close of Public Comment

Council Comments

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Councilman moved, seconded by Councilman to adjourn the meeting.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Mayor Philip Guenther

Lynn Sweeney, RMC
City Clerk