

**NORTH BRUNSWICK TOWNSHIP |
MINUTES....**

**REGULAR MEETING
July 6, 2020**

A regular meeting of the North Brunswick Township Council was held on Monday, July 6, 2020 (**Via Go to Meeting**) at 7:00 p.m. in the Municipal Complex located at 710 Hermann Road, North Brunswick, Middlesex County, New Jersey.

Mayor Womack called the meeting to order.

Roll call:

Present: Ms. Cortes, Messrs. Davis, Mr. Socio and Andrews
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Dr. Lopez, Ms. Guadagnino

Ms. Russo announced that the notice requirements of the law have been satisfied. Notices were sent by certified mail on January 2, 2020 to the following:

- a) The Home News Tribune b) Star Ledger c) North Brunswick Sentinel

Notice receipts are on file in the Municipal Clerk's Office. Also, notices were posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Complex and filed in the Municipal Clerk's Office.

Lisa Russo led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance

Also present: (Via Go to Meeting) Interim Business Administrator Justine Progebin, Township Attorney Ron Gordon, Esq., Director of Parks, Recreation & Community Services Lou Ann Benson, Director of Community Development Michael Hritz, Chief Financial Officer Cavel Gallimore, Public Safety Director Ken McCormick, Sewer Superintendent Chris Gianotto, Tax Collector Laurie Hammarstrom, Confidential Secretary/Planning Board Secretary Janice Larkin, Clerk Lisa Russo and Administrative Secretary Marilu Ruiz.

Mayor Womack asked council members if any items are to be removed from the Consent Agenda. Mayor Womack called for a motion to approve *items 4a – 4j* on the consent agenda. Motion made by Mr. Socio to approve items 4a– 4j on the agenda, second by Mr. Davis.

Roll call:

Present: Ms. Cortes, Ms. Guadagnino, Messrs. Davis, Mr. Socio and Andrews
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Dr. Lopez

Consent Agenda

- a. 190-7.20 Authorizing the reinstatement of installment payments for property owners with In Belcourt at Hidden Lake for Water Service Project

- b. 191-7.20 Approving Transfers between Fiscal - Year 2020 Appropriation Reserves
- c. 192-7.20 Authorizing the cancellation of property taxes
- d. 193-7.20 Canceling \$20,000 Balance from Sewer Utility Operating Fund "Salary and Wages" appropriation and \$180,000 from the "other expenses" appropriation
- e. 194-7.20 Resolution canceling \$10,000 Balance from Water Utility Operating Fund "Salary & Wages" appropriation and \$240,000 from the "other expenses" appropriation
- f. 195-7.20 Authorizing the Award of Contract BID20007 to **DMWXZ2** RE Holdings, LLC for Tax Assessment Consulting Services
- g. 196-7.20 Authorizing the Award of Contract BID20008 to Ion Wave Technologies Inc. for Online Procurement Software
- h. 197-7.20 Authorizing a Change in Scope to the PSA with T&M Associates appointed as the 2020 Township Environmental Engineer for Assistance with the preparation and submission of documents required by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection associated with the Site Remediation of the High School, Veterans Park and adjoining parcels
- i. 198-7.20 Authorizing a Change in Scope to the PSA with T&M Associates appointed as the 2020 Township Environmental Engineer Expert and Technical Support Services Associated with Litigation to resolve financial liabilities for remediation of the High School, Veterans Park and adjoining parcels
- j. 199-7.20 Bill List

Mayor Womack called for a motion to approve item #5a on the agenda Approval of Regular Council Meeting Minutes June 22, 2020 so moved by Mr. Davis second by Ms. Cortes

Mayor Womack asked Interim Business Administrator Justine Progebin if Resolution on extending water / sewer bill to August 10, 2020 had been put on the agenda. CFO Cavel Gallimore said yes it has been put as a Resolution to extend payments to August 10, 2020 and that interest will accrue as of August 11, 2020.

Councilman Socio asked if for some reason we don't have a resolution are we going to be able to have another version extending it until we do have a resolution. Hopefully it's going to be done by then. Mayor Womack asked when you say resolution you are not talking about council resolution you are talking about having the issues resolved correct. Councilman Socio said yes. Mayor Womack wanted to be clear on the language. The council will have the same authority 30 days from now from what we are doing tonight and in between now and then you will be having your budget meetings you will have the opportunity to further discuss this you can determine at that time if an extension is needed.

Mayor Womack called for a motion to adopt Resolution 200-7.20 Authorizing the change of due date of water/sewer bills for cycle 1 from July 10th to August 10, 2020 so moved by Mr. Davis second by Council President Andrews.

Roll call:

Present: Ms. Cortes, Ms. Guadagnino, Messrs. Davis, Mr. Socio and Andrews
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Dr. Lopez

Reports from Mayor, Council, Administrator, CFO

Director of Parks, Recreation & Community Services Lou Ann Benson-
Community Project of Hope for Arizona, Florida, Texas encouraging students to make posters, write letters, drawings and words of encouragement due to the numbers spiking due to covid-19. Projects are due July 28, 2020. (Please check Facebook) for further information.

Mayor Womack, asked Director Benson to make sure the Council was giving the information of the towns and states for encouragement letters to go out.

Director Benson-

Announced that playground units have opened accept for basketball, picnic groves and restrooms. Playground units can be used by anyone. Field use or picnic areas would need a park reservation form which can be found on www.northbrunswicknj.gov

Councilman Davis asked Director Benson are children suppose to be wearing a mask and will units be cleaned hourly or every few hours?

Director Benson- Explained that there will be social distancing, parents and guardians must wear a mask, children do not have to be masked while playing on units. Parents will be responsible to wipe and make sure children wash hands and do not touch their face.

Mayor Womack asked if anyone would like to be heard in Public Hearing. 7:15 pm

Carmelo CintronVivas-

Asked about any updates with the investigation and what the problem may be with the water/sewer bills.

Mayor Womack-

Responded that the Township has identified that they have billed people at a higher rate due to longer time between bills. They are working on properly crediting the problem issues. We have another issue with Deer Brook bills which may be higher due to repairs done. We are checking the meters we have made a big progress.

Karen Kalenowski Kalamaras-

Are these Neptune Meters?

Interim Business Administrator Justine Progebin-

Yes, they are Neptune Meters

Mayor Womack asked Justine to please explain Edmunds.

Interim Business Administrator Justine Progebin-
Most Municipalities use Edmunds for Financial Software the Township has been using it since, 2001.

Karen Kalenowski Kalamaras-
There was an interesting article she read in 2011 about decimals and calculating the water bills.

Interim Business Administrator Justine Progebin-
The Township is aware of it and has looked into it with Consultants, Engineers and American Water and that is not the case here.

Mayor Womack-
We are taking on case by case to make sure meters are working correctly.

Karen Kalenowski-Kalamaras-
Were the amounts billed true numbers?

Mayor Womack-
No, we think they are a lot of bills not billed correctly. Those are the cases we are looking into.

Teresa Demelo-
On average what is the credit residents are receiving back?

Interim Business Administrator Justine Progebin-
Between \$10-\$15 dollars

Teresa Demelo-
Is a payment plan in effect or does one have to pay full bill by Aug. 10th?

Mayor Womack-
We will have payment plans if a person needs it.

Interim Business Administrator Justine Progebin-
The Tax Collector will be happy to take partial payment. If interest accrues The Council will have to approve waiving the interest on a case by case.

Doug-
Wants to know the status of pavement on Glen Ridge and Oakwood when will it be finished?

Mayor Womack-
Said he would let Community Development Director Michael Hritz answer that question.

Venkata Pedditi-
Question about water bill. Mr. Pedditi had 7 months between reads.

Director of Community Development Michael Hritz -
To Doug reducing bonds as notice indicate Pulte Home Bonds reducing for overall reduction we are recommending the developers bond be reduced.

Venkata Pedditi-

Had a question. (bad connection could not hear) view video

Mayor Womack-

Good things are happening projects will move forward amidst the Covid-19 epidemic, the President agreed to provide federal funds for tunnels and Freeholder Shanti Narra has been named to NJ Transit Board.

Abi-

Received bill 3 times higher his meter was replaced in March. He has left a message and no one has returned his call.

Mayor Womack-

Concerned he has not received a return call. He asked Justine to call Abi to go over his bill and concerns.

Usamak-

Wants to know the latest information on the water situation.

Mayor Womack-

All bills due July 10th are now due on Aug. 10th

Usamak-

Did the Township find a resolution yet? What is the time frame he can expect an answer on his bill?

Mayor Womack-

Call Janice Larkin to discuss bill. He should have an answer quickly.

Doug-

Paving roads on Glen Ridge and Oakwood all trucks are gone and it's not finished.

Director of Community Development Michael Hritz -

Standard road operating procedure we give a few weeks to settle you should see the top coat soon.

Mayor Womack-

Grand opening of Lidl

Director of Community Development Michael Hritz-

Lidl is Scheduled for a Grand Opening July 29th however, date can change. We will make an announcement of details once it has been confirmed.

Teresa Demelo- (Boyfriend)

How many estimated bills went out?

Tax Collector Laurie Hammerstrom-

About 1,200 only sent to anyone who did not have a new meter.

Mayor Womack-

Ms. Demelo do you agree with Ms. Progebin's analysis of your bill? if not we will continue to look at your bill.

Teresa Demelo-

No, she does not agree. Ms. Demelo does not think she should be trying to figure out her bill and no she does not have a leak.

Mayor Womack-

We will continue to work with you.

Interim Business Administrator Justine Progebin-

Ms. Demelo has an appointment Aug. 17th. We are still looking at her bill and have offered to assess her meter. We will have someone come out to check it.

Michele-

When are water bills being sent? She has not received a bill since, May. She does not want to be hit with a high bill. Justine recommended to login to portal so, that she may be able to see bill and e-mail the Township directly through the portal.

Tax Collector Laurie Hammerstorm-

Bills will be going out next week.

Bill Labos-

Lives in the Adams Section of Town received bill in March then May. He has a new meter. Previous to the new meter and billing he was being billed quarterly will the Township be posting anything on this, so he can calculate his bill?

Interim Business Administrator Justine Progebin-

Showed a brief example and explained how to calculate.

Bill Labos-

Has there been an increase in rate?

Interim Business Administrator Justine Progebin-

Yes, 2 % percent rate increase.

Bill Labos-

Will the residents be billed in the higher tier?

Interim Business Administrator Justine Progebin-

No, Justine showed the rates and explained that the next cycle will still be billed at the old rate and explained that the Township will be going to monthly billing.

Mayor Womack called for a motion to close the Public Hearing, so moved by Mr. Davis second by Council President Andrews.

Adjourn 8:11 pm

Lisa Russo
Municipal Clerk