

A Special Meeting of the North Brunswick Township Council was held on Monday August 30, 2021 at 7:59 pm in the Municipal Complex located at 710 Hermann Road, North Brunswick, Middlesex County, New Jersey **Hybrid – Live and Via GoToMeeting**

Mayor Womack called the meeting to order.

Roll call:

Present: Ms. Guadagnino, Messrs. Mehta, Lopez, Andrews, Davis and Socio
Absent: None

Ms. Russo announced that the notice requirements of the law have been satisfied. Notices were sent by certified mail on December 30, 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.

Also present (Via Go to Meeting): Business Administrator Justine Progebin, Township Attorney Ron Gordon, Esq., Vaughn Parchment Attorney Rainone Coughlin Minchello, OEM Coordinator Mark Cafferty, Municipal Clerk Lisa Russo, Administrative Secretary Marilu Ruiz and Clerk 2 Nellie Sowell.

Councilman Davis led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent Agenda

- a. 239-8.21 Bill List

Mayor Womack called for a motion to approve Consent Agenda **"item 4 a"** so moved by Ms. Guadagnino seconded by Council President Socio.

Roll call:

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

Ordinances/Second Reading/Public Hearing:

#21-14 Second Reading and Public Hearing – An ordinance to amend the Code of the Township of North Brunswick, County of Middlesex, State of Ne Jersey, by adding Chapter 28, authorizing the establishment of a Community Aggregation Program that creates an option for 100% regionally sourced renewables

Township attorney Ron Gordon explains how the municipality operates under the Faulkner Act. Mr. Gordon explains about Initiative and Referendum petitions and the process of proceeding with them. The Township has gone through the procedural Part, now it moves onto 2nd reading and Public Hearing portion. Mr. Gordon explains how to move forward and what happens if the ordinance is or is not adopted by the council. If it is not adopted by the council then it moves to a referendum through the next General Election or through a Special Election.

Municipal Clerk Lisa Russo reads certification letter.

Mayor Womack opened the Public Hearing at 8:07pm.

Charlie Kratovil – gives thanks to all volunteers and resident who signed petition. Mr. Kratovil states the petition was started in 2020. Mr. Kratovil states the petition was adopted in New Brunswick and is successful. Mr. Kratovil also states other towns, such as, Edison, Woodbridge and Long Branch have been given the petition. Last year it was also given to East Brunswick. Their council did not adopt it. The petition went to a referendum on the 2020 General Election, which the voters ultimately voted yes to by 69%. Mr. Kratovil states last year the climate was changed to “Code Red” to humanity. Now is the time for action. Mr. Kratovil asks council to adopt for residents to have a clean energy option. Mr. Kratovil states he will answer any question anyone may have about this petition.

Mayor Womack thanks Mr. Kratovil.

Ms. Guadagnino asks about cost and savings to residents? Mr. Kratovil states New Brunswick residents are seeing savings every month and other towns have also seen savings. It is a cheaper option to residents. Township attorney Ron Gordon states we hope so but we won’t know until we go through the process, there are no guarantees. Ms. Guadagnino asks if it can still be taken back if the costs go up? Mr. Kratovil answers yes.

Councilman Mehta asks how long the resident have to OPT out if they do not want it? Mr. Kratovil answers they can OPT out anytime.

Council President Socio asks why resident have to OPT out instead of them choosing to OPT in? Mr. Kratovil sates it is a state statute, this is how it is written out. Mr. Kratovil states notices will be sent out giving resident the information necessary to OPT out, there are a lot of different options given to OPT out.

Councilman Mehta asks if the petition is adopted by ballot, are there the same rights? Mr. Kratovil states yes, it is the same for 3 years. Township attorney Ron Gordon explains if this is not approved by the Governing Body, the process is still the same if adopted by ballot. The Governing Body will still have the authority to pick the supplier.

Councilwoman Guadagnino asks if there is any extra required from the residents? Mr. Kratovil states no there is not.

Councilman Davis asks if there are any additional costs? How many towns have adopted this? Mayor Womack answers Councilman Davis. Mr. Kratovil states in Piscataway the petition was adopted by referendum, they are saving money there already. Councilman Davis asks if can OPT out within 1 year? Mr. Kratovil states you can OPT out at anytime.

Council President Socio asks if residents that OPT out can OPT back in if they wish? Mr. Kratovil states yes they can at anytime.

Ariel Pina – states he supports the renewable energy. The climate change is a problem. People can be proactive at the beginning to get a workable situation. Mr. Pina is 100% behind it. Mr. Pina gives thanks to all.

OEM Coordinator Mark Cafferty asks who comes out to fix it if the power goes down? Mr. Gordon explains it is his understanding that will still be serviced by PSE&G. This is just the renewable energy services, everything else will stay the same.

Mayor Womack called for a motion to close Public Hearing on Ordinance #21-14, so moved by Ms. Guadagnino second by Mr. Mehta.

Roll call:

Yays:	Ms. Guadagnino Messrs. Mehta, Lopez, Andrews, Davis and Socio
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

Mayor Womack called for a motion to adopt Ordinance #21-14, So moved Mr. Mehta second by Mr. Davis that Ordinance #21-14 approved on second and final reading and referred to the Mayor for his action and then published in the September 2, 2021 issue of the Home News Tribune according to the Law. This ordinance is posted in the Municipal Complex, 710 Hermann Road, North Brunswick, Middlesex County, New Jersey and copies are available upon request.

Roll call:

Yays:	Ms. Guadagnino Messrs. Mehta, Lopez and Davis
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Nays: Mr. Andrews and Mr. Socio
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Mayor Womack opened the Public Hearing at 8:27pm

Mr. Kratovil thanks the Council for their votes and asks Mayor Womack if this ordinance will require the Mayor's signature to adopt? Mayor Womack answers yes. Mr. Karotovil asks if Mayor Womack will sign ordinance? Mayor Womack responds to him.

Mayor Womack called for a motion to close Public Hearing so moved by Mr. Mehta second by Ms. Guadagnino

Roll call:

Yays: Ms. Guadagnino Messrs. Mehta, Lopez, Andrews, Davis and Socio
Nays: None
Abstain: None
Absent: None

Mayor Womack called for a motion to adjourn meeting. So moved by Council President Socio, second by Ms. Guadagnino

Roll call:

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

Adjourn 8:28pm
Lisa Russo
Municipal Clerk