

Borough Council Minutes
New Providence, New Jersey
March 3, 2018

The special meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of New Providence, County of Union and State of New Jersey was held on Saturday, March 3, 2018 at 1:00 pm at the Municipal Center. Mayor Morgan called the meeting to order.

Present on Roll Call: Mayor Morgan, Council President Muñoz, Councilman Madden, Councilman Kapner, Councilman Gennaro

Entered After Roll Call: Councilwoman Geoffroy, Councilman Robinson

Absent: None

Also Present: Administrator Marvin, Borough Clerk Barry, Attorney Rizzo

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mayor Morgan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC NOTICE:

Mayor Morgan stated this is a public meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of New Providence, County of Union and State of New Jersey. Adequate notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with P.L. 1975, Chapter 231, in that an annual notice or revision was made in conformance with Section 13 of the Act.

Mayor Morgan commented on Thursday's nor'easter which JCP & L described as a mini Sandy. JCP & L reported that all customers should have power restored by Monday.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Mayor Morgan

- 2020 - 300 Year Anniversary Celebration

Mayor Morgan reported that Betty Metzger has begun working on the Borough's 300 year anniversary celebration, which will occur in 2020. Mayor Morgan requested Council provided funding for the celebration in the municipal budget.

During above discussion Councilman Robinson and Councilwoman Geoffroy entered and took their places.

Mayor Morgan asked Council to consider appropriating money for work on the Salt Box Museum. Council discussed what work was needed and if an architect should be hired to determine what repairs should be considered, due to the historical value of the building.

- Veteran Affairs Panel

Mayor Morgan expressed his desire to form a Veteran Affairs Panel. Council requested information on what other municipalities are doing regarding this topic.

Council President Muñoz:

- Freeholder/County Outreach

Council President Muñoz spoke about inviting County representatives to the Borough to meet with the Mayor, Administrator and a members of Council, as a means to show the County what is going on in New Providence. Council concurred it was a good idea.

Councilman Kapner:

- Advancing goals of the Downtown Master Plan – Is parking an obstacle?

Councilman Kapner asked Council how they would like to proceed with respect to implementing the Downtown Master Plan. Council considered a passive approach, letting the market drive changes, or taking a more aggressive approach. Council discussed pedestrian safety and traffic flow issues in the downtown business area.

- Logo and Wayfinding signs

Councilman Kapner reported on the wayfinding signs project and the design of a new Borough logo. Councilman Kapner asked Council if they wished to participate in funding these projects, noting the Downtown Improvement District has budgeted \$2,000.00 towards the projects.

Councilman Madden requested and update on the Streetscape Project. Borough Administrator Marvin provided and update on the project noting that NJDOT is now performing their review. Mr. Marvin advised that once NJDOT approval is received the project can go to bid.

- Creating formal walking path/route from AWR to NPMS/HS to Salt Brook – an initiative of the EDC and Sustainability

Councilman Kapner reported that the Sustainability Committee is working on formalizing a walking path from Allen W. Roberts School to the High School - Middle School to Salt Brook School. The Committee would like to have the path marked illustrating that the town is walkable from one side to the other.

- Department of Public Works Garage

Councilman Kapner asked if Council is considering raising the roof or redesigning garage to house large equipment. Council discussed what is needed and suggested any changes would have to be phased in.

Councilman Robinson

- Liquor License

Councilman Robinson asked Council to consider if it is in the best interest of the Borough to wait six months before offering the last consumption liquor license for sale, suggesting Council reconsider offering the license sooner. After some discussion, Council concurred to begin the process at the Council meeting of March 12th.

Councilman Madden:

- Communication Committee Update
 - Recommendations of proposed procedures/processes will follow for formal action of the council.

Councilman Madden reported on the Communication Committee meeting noting the committee is moving to get all Borough organizations to post information on the New Providence Official site. Mr. Madden explained the committee is looking at how to respect all the different ways residents look to get information. Councilman Madden noted that the Borough has not received any complaints on how information is provided but must continue to evaluate communication procedures and policies. Council discussed ways the Borough can be responsive and to direct residents to the proper source of borough information.

Councilman Madden proposed there may be opportunities for the Borough to advertise the business community at the recreation facilities.

Administrator Marvin:

Councilman Gennaro asked the Borough Administrator if, during the recent storm, the WWTP was required to discharge to the river. The Borough Administrator advised that the tanks were full but no discharge was required. Council discussed the infrastructure issues along with infiltration and inflow concerns.

Councilwomen Geoffroy reported the Board of Education is planning a Parents Forum on School Safety.

- 2018 UC Infrastructure Grant

Borough Administrator Marvin reviewed the 2018 Union County Infrastructure Grant application for sidewalk improvements.

- Council By-Laws

Borough Administrator Marvin reviewed proposed changes to the Borough Council bi-laws which would provide for a borough employee being assigned to advisory committees to assist the volunteers with administrative items associated with the committee's activities.

Council discussed the proposed changes to the bi-laws along with Council liaison assignments. Councilman Gennaro suggested Council form a committee to look

at the following:

- The proposed bi-law changes discussed today
- Making no change to the bi-laws
- Reverting back to the 2017 bi-laws

Council concurred with the suggestion of forming a committee to study and take time to review the options. Council agreed that during this review process the Mayor would be able to attend advisory committee meetings. Council suggested Mayor Morgan, Council President Muñoz and Councilman Madden comprise the review committee. Council requested the committee present recommendations to Council at the March 26th meeting.

Councilman Gennaro moved the Council bi-laws sent to the Council committee for review and recommendation. Motion seconded by Councilman Robinson and unanimously approved.

Mayor Morgan expressed his desire to have monthly Council work sessions. Council agreed work sessions are beneficial, but felt monthly meetings were too frequent and they should be scheduled as needed. Councilman Gennaro stated the meetings should be recorded as with regular meetings.

PUBLIC COMMENTS.

This is an opportunity for any member of the public to be heard about issues that are not separate topics, scheduled for public hearings tonight. To help facilitate an orderly meeting, and to permit all to be heard, speakers are asked to limit their comments to three (3) minutes, and may only speak once on any one topic.

Mayor Morgan opened the meeting for public comments.

Peggy Hagen – 21 Division Avenue. Stated she found the meeting interesting and that she believes Council is on the way to fixing the bi-laws. Ms. Hagen asked if there is a package of municipal information available for the residents of Lantern Hill. Council advised one was prepared and provided to Lantern Hill residents.

Mark Ondress - thanked Council for all their dedication for their work.

There being no one else wishing to speak, this portion of the meeting was closed.

ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business, on motion by Councilman Madden, seconded by Councilwoman Geoffroy, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendi B. Barry
Borough Clerk

These minutes have not yet been officially approved.

Minutes approved at the May 7, 2018 meeting of the Borough Council, as submitted.