

Borough Council Minutes
New Providence, New Jersey
October 22, 2018

The regular meeting of the Borough Council of the Borough of New Providence, County of Union and State of New Jersey was held on Monday, October 22, 2018 at 7:00 pm at the Municipal Center. Mayor Morgan called the meeting to order.

Present on Roll Call: Mayor Morgan, Council President Muñoz,
Councilwoman Geoffroy, Councilman Kapner,
Councilman Robinson, Councilman Gennaro

Entered After Roll Call: None

Absent: Councilman Madden

Also Present: Administrator Marvin, Borough Clerk Barry, Deputy
Clerk Brinkofski, Attorney Kunzman

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.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW OWNERS OF MURRAY HILL INN

Mayor Morgan introduced Mr. Rich Ghandi prospective purchaser of the Murray Hill Inn. Council asked what Mr. Ghandi's plans were for the hotel. Mr. Ghandi explained he planned to keep the operation as a hotel but make improvements and updates to the facility. Councilman Robinson asked about any changes to the restaurant and liquor license. Mr. Ghandi advised it would all remain the same. Councilman Robinson requested additional information regarding the liquor license. Borough Attorney Rizzo explained the license would remain the same, in the same name, Murray Hill License LLC, but the owner of the entity would change. Mr. Rizzo went on to explain Council does not have any roll in this change; ABC would have to approve it. Council welcomed Mr. Ghandi to town and wished him and Moe success.

APPOINTMENTS:

Resolution 2018-268 Resolution Appointing Stephen Scaturro As
Probationary Patrolman In The Police Department Of
The Borough Of New Providence

Councilman Muñoz moved passage of Resolution 2018-268 "Resolution Appointing Stephen Scaturro As Probationary Patrolman In The Police Department Of The Borough Of New Providence". Seconded by Councilwoman

Geoffroy and on Roll Call: Councilwoman Geoffroy, Councilman Kapner, Councilman Gennaro, Council President Muñoz and Councilman Robinson voted “Aye”. Carried on Roll Call.

Mayor Morgan administered the Oath of Office to Patrolman Scaturro.

Resolution 2018-269 Resolution Appointing Andrew Diamond To Sergeant
In The Police Department Of The Borough Of New
Providence

Councilman Muñoz moved passage of Resolution 2018-269 “Resolution Appointing Andrew Diamond To Sergeant In The Police Department Of The Borough Of New Providence”. Seconded by Councilwoman Geoffroy and on Roll Call: Councilwoman Geoffroy, Councilman Kapner, Councilman Gennaro, Council President Muñoz and Councilman Robinson voted “Aye”. Carried on Roll Call.

Mayor Morgan administered the Oath of Office to Sergeant Diamond.

PRESENTATION:

Citizen “Action Line” Demonstration – Cindy Reis, Public Information Officer

Cindy Reis, Public Information Officer reviewed for Council resources and information available on the Borough Website. Ms. Reis demonstrated how by using the “Contact Us” feature the public can contact Council Members, Borough Officials and staff with questions and concerns. Councilman Robinson spoke regarding the Communications Committee and its goal to drive people to the Borough website to obtain the most accurate and timely information. Councilman Kapner concurred the website is the official source of Borough information and not community forums. Council asked for a demonstration on some of the interactive features of the website as well as how information is pushed out to the residents.

Councilman Robinson asked Ms. Reis to explain communication #1. Ms. Reis explained Rutgers Center for Government Services does a state wide contest looking at public information and what towns are doing that other towns could learn from or replicate. Ms. Reis went on to explain that for the third year in a row the Borough has been recognized, this year for best visuals.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilwoman Geoffroy moved the minutes of the September 24, 2018 meeting be approved as submitted. Seconded by Council President Muñoz and unanimously approved.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Rutgers Center for Government Services, October 3, 2018. Re: 57th Annual Municipal Public Information Contest Award for Best Visual Media, Class B Municipality. No action required, previously reported on.

2. Andrew Zaslavsky, October 6, 2018. Re: Political Signs on Public Property. Mayor Morgan advised he spoke to the Borough Administrator who said the signs would be removed. Councilman Gennaro confirmed that the Borough is and should be apolitical and political signs will be removed from municipal property.
3. Bonnie Goodwin Sargeant, October 8, 2018. Re: Board of Adjustment Public Hearing, 97 Pleasantview Avenue. No action required.
4. Public Service Electric & Gas, October 9, 2018. Re: Public Notice, Gas Base Rate Adjustments. No action required.
5. Union County Freeholders, October 11, 2018. Re: Ordinance 798-2018, Union County Administrative Code. No action required.
6. Union County Freeholders, October 11, 2018. Re: Ordinance 799-2018, Land Development Standards. No action required.
7. David Blanchard, October 14, 2018. Re: Bear Notification. No action required.
8. Murray Hill Tennis & Fitness, October 17, 2018. Re: Request for Temporary Signage. Council approved request to display temporary signs.

COUNCIL BUSINESS:

Affordable Housing: Councilman Gennaro, Councilman Kapner

1. Resolution 2018-270 Resolution Of The Borough Of New Providence, County Of Union, State Of New Jersey, Authorizing Subordination Of Mortgage For Gramcko Refinance Of Affordable Housing Unit

Councilman Gennaro presented Resolution 2018-270 authorizing the subordination to the primary loan to allow for a refinancing of the mortgage for the affordable housing unit.

Community Activities: Councilman Madden, Councilwoman Geoffroy

1. Resolution 2018-271 Salary Resolution

Councilwoman Geoffroy presented Resolution 2018-271 appointing basketball staff for the 2018-2019 basketball programs.

2. Resolution 2018-272 Resolution Approving Partial Payment # 2 For Tri-Plex Industries, Inc, In The Amount Of \$ 54,750.00 For The Project Commonly Known As "DeCorso Kitchen Renovation"

Councilwoman Geoffroy presented Resolution 2018-272 which approves partial payment # 2 in the amount of \$54,750 for the DeCorso Center Kitchen Renovation project.

Diversity Committee: Council President Muñoz, Councilwoman Geoffroy

1. Resolution 2018-273 Resolution Approving Request Of The New Providence Diversity Committee To Sponsor Community Events

Council President Muñoz presented Resolution 2018-273 which approves community events hosted by the Diversity Committee for Diwali Celebration and the Night of a Thousand Stars.

Finance: Councilman Gennaro, Councilwoman Geoffroy

1. Resolution 2018-274 Resolution Authorizing The Cancellation Of Grant Funds Receivable And Appropriated

Councilman Gennaro presented Resolution 2018-274 which authorizes the cancellation of a grant balance of \$3.75 for the 2018 Street Smart Pedestrian Safety Grant.

2. Resolution 2018-275 Resolution Authorizing Payment Of The Attached Bills Payable Lists, In The Amount Of

Councilman Gennaro presented Resolution 2018-275 which approves the Bills Payable List in the amount of \$ 348,967.07, which includes payment of \$54,750 for the DeCorso Kitchen project and \$33,042 for recycling services.

Personnel: Councilman Robinson, Councilman Gennaro

1. Authorization to Advertise for Public Health Nurse.

Councilman Robinson advised the Board of Health met with the Westfield Health Officer to see if the services of the Public Health Nurse could be obtained as a shared service through the Westfield Health contract. The Health Officer advised it was not possible or recommended. Therefore the Board requests Council to advertise the vacancy.

2. Resolution 2018-276 Resolution Of The Borough Council Of The Borough Of New Providence, County Of Union, State Of New Jersey Amending The Personnel Policy For The Borough Of New Providence For The Year 2018

Councilman Robinson presented Resolution 2018-276 which approves an amended Personnel Policy reflecting change to state law regarding sick-time usage. In addition, the policy is being changed to allow employees to carry-over up to one week of vacation time to the next year. Councilman Robinson advised the change has been reviewed and approved by the personnel committee.

Public Safety: Mayor Morgan, Councilman Kapner

1. Raffle Request: Our Lady of Peace Church RA-1103

Mayor Morgan presented Raffle Request RA-1103 for Our Lady of Peace Church noting the application has been reviewed and approved by the Police Department.

2. Resolution 2018-277 Resolution Relative To Issuance Of Plenary Retail Consumption License To Allycat, LLC

Mayor Morgan presented Resolution 2018-277 authorizing the issuance of the Plenary Consumption License to Allycat, LLC. Mayor Morgan stated the application was reviewed and investigated by the Police Department.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. LED Street Light Upgrade - Conversion Chart

Council discussed the LED street light upgrade and the benefits of the change, to safety and to the environment. Borough Administrator Marvin explained the utility company will change the lights to the LED technology at no charge. Mr. Marvin further explained that for approximately \$300 more a month the Borough could raise the lumens on about 250 lights to 2000 lumens or if no change is made to the lumens the cost would decrease by about \$200 a month. Mr. Marvin noted that he and the Chief of Police are supportive of the change because we believe the additional lighting will be helpful throughout town, while benefiting the environment. Council discussed and concurred with the program.

2. Citizen Request to Waive Interest Penalty for Delinquent Tax Payment

Council reviewed citizen request to waive interest penalty for delinquent tax payment which was a result of incorrectly processing an on-line payment. Council discussed and while sensitive to the issue could not approve as would then have to do the same for everyone who misses the payment deadline.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS.

Councilwoman Geoffroy reported on the following items:

- 1) Attended South Street Traffic Meeting. Next meeting will be November 1st.

Councilman Kapner reported on the following items:

- 1) Scarecrow Contest going on in downtown.
- 2) Downtown Truck of Treat will be October 21st.
- 3) Street Fair will be October 28th.
- 4) Holiday Festival will be November 23rd.
- 5) Small Business Saturday is November 24th.

Councilman Gennaro Reported on the following items:

- 1) Finance Committee had its first meeting with unions.

Council President Muñoz reported on the following items:

- 1) Diversity Committee meeting this Thursday October 25th.

Councilman Robinson reported on the following items:

- 1) Employee Evaluations have been launched.
- 2) Downtown Improvement District met and reviewed budgets and fundraising by volunteers.
- 3) New Logo and Doing Business in New Providence publication.
- 4) Marijuana Dispensaries and Production Facilities – going to listen, learn and explore this topic so we are ready for it.
- 5) Barth's Market being honored as the New Jersey Family Business of the Year.

Mayor Morgan reported on the following items:

- 1) Red Ribbon Week events.
- 2) Library Craft Fair.
- 3) CSA Holiday Boutique.
- 4) Library Renovation presentation now waiting to see the future of the State grant funding.
- 5) Street Fair will be October 28th.
- 6) Trunk or Treat will be October 21st.
- 7) Pumpkin Carving Contest will be October 27th.

BOROUGH ADMINISTRATOR REPORT.

Borough Administrator Marvin reported on the following items:

- 1) 2018 Sidewalk Program will begin at the end of the month and be completed by the end of November. Work will be in the areas of:
Central Avenue between Fairview Avenue and Pearl Street; and
Floral Avenue between Spring Street and Chanlon Road
- 2) Union County Freeholders will be handing out Kids Recreation Trust Grants on Wednesday night October 24th.
- 3) Employee Evaluations should be completed by the beginning of November.

Councilman Gennaro asked the Borough Administrator to summarize the total of all the grants received and the sources of the grants, for the next Council Meeting.

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.

Kurt Threan – Mountain Avenue.

Glad to hear Council has agreed to reduce the speed limit on Mountain Avenue, between Diamond Hill Road and South Street to 40 MPH.

Reginal Garrett – Delaware

Addressed Council about his disappointed with how his concerns and e-mails, regarding to his traffic stop, have been handled by the Borough Attorney. Mr. Garrett stated he has a problem with racial profiling and that he plans on being here on November 13th for a one person silent protest, to try and make a difference.

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

FORMAL ACTION.

CONSENT AGENDA (routine items that may be passed by a single roll call vote; any Council member may call for a separate discussion or vote on any item)

Council President Muñoz moved passage of items 1 through 8 of the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilwoman Geoffroy and on Roll Call: Councilwoman Geoffroy, Councilman Kapner, Councilman Gennaro, Council President Muñoz and Councilman Robinson voted “Aye”. Carried on Roll Call.

Councilwoman Geoffroy moved passage of item 9 of the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Councilman Kapner and on Roll Call: Councilwoman Geoffroy, Councilman Kapner, and Councilman Robinson voted “Aye”. Councilman Gennaro and Council President Muñoz abstained due to a conflict of interest. Carried on Roll Call.

1. Resolution 2018-270 Resolution Of The Borough Of New Providence, County Of Union, State Of New Jersey, Authorizing Subordination Of Mortgage For Gramcko Refinance Of Affordable Housing Unit
2. Resolution 2018-271 Salary Resolution
3. Resolution 2018-272 Resolution Approving Partial Payment # 2 For Tri-Plex Industries, Inc, In The Amount Of \$ 54,750.00 For The Project Commonly Known As “Decorso Kitchen Renovation”
4. Resolution 2018-273 Resolution Approving Request Of The New Providence Diversity Committee To Sponsor Community Events
5. Resolution 2018-274 Resolution Authorizing The Cancellation Of Grant Funds Receivable And Appropriated
6. Resolution 2018-275 Resolution Authorizing Payment Of The Attached Bills Payable Lists, In The Amount Of \$ 348,967.07
7. Resolution 2018-276 Resolution Of The Borough Council Of The Borough Of New Providence, County Of Union, State Of New Jersey Amending The Personnel Policy For The Borough Of New Providence For The Year 2018

8. Resolution 2018-277 Resolution Relative To Issuance Of Plenary Retail Consumption License To Allycat,
9. Raffle Request: Our Lady of Peace Church RA-1103

EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Resolution 2018-10a Resolution Establishing October 22, 2018 As The Date, And 8:30 Pm As The Time, And The Municipal Center As The Place, For The Holding Of A Special Meeting Of The Mayor And Council Of The Borough Of New Providence, To Discuss Negotiation Matters Involving Affordable Housing At Which Time The Public Will Be Excluded

Title was read in full by the Borough Clerk.

Council President Muñoz moved adoption of Resolution 2018-10a, seconded by Councilman Kapner and on Roll Call: Council President Muñoz, Councilwoman Geoffroy, Councilman Kapner, Councilman Gennaro, and Councilman Robinson voted “aye”. Carried on Roll Call.

On motion by Councilman Kapner, seconded by Council President Muñoz the meeting was re-opened.

ADJOURNMENT.

There being no further business, on motion by Councilman Kapner, seconded by Council President Muñoz, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendi B. Barry
Borough Clerk

These minutes have not yet been officially approved.

Minutes approved at the November 26, 2018 meeting of the Borough Council, as submitted.