

## COMMISSIONER WORK SESSION OF APRIL 5, 2021

The Commissioner Work Session of April 5, 2021 meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. The meeting was held via GoToMeeting. The announcement of Public Meetings was read by the Administrator. In attendance were Mayor Rochford, Commissioner Kasko and Commissioner Bianco Bezich, the Borough Administrator, Borough Solicitor, and Borough Clerk.

The Administrator opened the public comment portion of the meeting. No comments were made, nor questions asked at this time.

The first items discussed were the various requests for use of public property.

1. Pedego Haddonfield – The Administrator reviewed the request indicating that they would like to hold a “Hello Fun Mobile Stop” on May 13<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Whenever a new store opens the owners send their travelling RV to that location for a celebration. They would like a parking spot for this RV in front of their store, as well as have space for food trucks, an acoustic band, games and bike rides in the parking lot behind them. After several concerns were raised about the amount of space needed behind the store and the use of the RV, the Commissioners agreed that additional information was needed. The Administrator advised that this information would be provided at the next work session.
2. British American Business Council – The Administrator reviewed the request indicating that this group wants to sponsor an event in conjunction with the British Chip Shop, the brewery, the English Gardener Gift Shop and the Queen's Shop in late April or early May. The event would take place from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and would involve approximately 50 people total, split in two shifts. They want to have tables and chairs in Kings Court, with four (4) people per table. Alcohol would be involved, along with food. This is a signature Annual NJ Networking Event and Dinner and would be for a select group of people. They would have to submit for our alcohol permit, as well as a same day social affairs permit. Mayor Rochford asked if these tables would fit in with the tables from the restaurants in Kings Court. The Administrator advised that she believed they could work together, but it may limit the number of businesses that can participate. Commissioner Bianco Bezich questioned about the inclusion from the brewery and how that would be handled, but looked forward to working with this group. Additionally, she indicated that there would need to be someone in attendance responsible for pandemic compliance and she would like to have a schematic for how this would be handled in Kings Court. Jane Rosenberg, the event sponsor, joined the meeting. After discussing several aspects of the event, the Commissioners agreed that they would be willing to discuss the event further once the Administrator and Clerk obtained further details. Ms. Rosenberg agreed to meet with the Administrator and Clerk virtually to discuss the event in more detail at a later date.
3. Ankokas Car Club – Mr. Bob Petters joined the meeting to review their request to hold the car show in the fall and asked what would be required for a “cruising” event versus a stationary one. Commissioner Bianco Bezich noted that we did not know what the restrictions would be in September regarding the pandemic. After a discussion of what the current restrictions were and that the historical turnout for

the event has been, Mr. Petters noted that they would most likely have to be able to make last minute changes based on the State's requirements at that time. Commissioner Bianco Bezich suggested looking at what other towns are allowing and noted that a cruising event would limit the number of attendees crowded around the vehicles. Commissioner Kasko stated that he believed things will be clearer in next few months at the State level. The Administrator suggested coming back to the second work session in May to see what the restrictions are at that time. The Commissioners agreed that waiting for a decision would be best.

4. June Skirmish sponsored by the Friends of the Indian King Tavern (Friends) – the Administrator advised that this was more just an FYI. She asked if the Commissioners were comfortable with the idea provided by the Friends that they would make a decision on May 1<sup>st</sup> for an early June event. Commissioner Bianco Bezich indicated that she was concerns about the potential number of attendees. It was agreed that the Clerk would comment to this group about the Commissioners concerns regarding such a quick turnaround.
5. Girl Scouts request for Cookie Booth in Kings Court – the Administrator reviewed the April dates being requested. Mayor Rochford asked if there had been any issues with the previous cookie booth event(s), to which the Administrator replied that there had been not complaints. The Commissioners agreed to the request.

Next, the Borough's annual Rabies Clinic was discussed. The Administrator reviewed the event and suggested having everything outside. If it does rain then it could be moved to the main hallway of borough hall. The Commissioners agreed. The Administrator also suggested reaching out to the vet to see what protocols they would require.

The Commissioners were advised that the Administration Office has begun receiving requests for Solicitor Permits. In a review of the Governor's Executive Orders nothing is found specifically referencing these permits. The Administrator asked if the Commissioners wished to begin authorizing these permits. The Borough Solicitor advised that these are constitutionally allowed and the Commissioners cannot ban them outright, however, they can regulate them. Mayor Rochford asked if we could continue to ban them for a while longer due to the pandemic, to which the Solicitor advised that due to COVID we can continue the moratorium for a period of time. Commissioner Kasko suggested that the discussion be brought up again in 6-8 weeks. The Commissioners agreed. The Solicitor then mentioned that the candidates for the May 11<sup>th</sup> election may go door to door campaigning. The Commissioners agreed to not ban campaigning.

A request from a resident on West Summit Avenue asking the Commissioners to pass a resolution supporting the Second Amendment was reviewed. The Commissioners agreed that an automatic response in instances such at this can be provided by the Clerk stating that it is the policy of the Board of Commissioners to not participate in such requests.

Next, the Commissioners reviewed a request from a group of residents that are willing to provide maintenance for the sculpture garden within Tatem Garden. The Administrator reviewed the various items requested from this group, which she noted could be dealt with by the Department of Public Works (DPW). The request regarding the availability of electricity in the park was mentioned. Currently there is no such service provided there. The Administrator asked the Commissioners if she had their permission to look into the cost

to install electrical outlet(s) there and noted that having that would allow for other evening uses in there. The Commissioners reviewed the request to allow this group to work there. They then agreed to both the residents' request and to the Administrator to get the cost to install electrical service.

The installation of a Voter Drop Off box at the borough hall was then discussed. The previously agreed to spot is no longer allowed as these boxes cannot be located within 100 feet of a Police Department entrance. There are two possible locations – 1) the small garden bed in front of the Little House farthest from the borough building; or 2) the front of borough hall to the right of the first set of steps at sidewalk level. Commissioner Kasko asked why they couldn't be by a Police Department. Commissioner Bianco Bezich stated it was because of a new law regarding potential police intimidation. The Administrator suggested the location at the front of Borough Hall. The Commissioners agreed to this suggestion.

Commissioner Kasko then provided an update on the "Borough Hens Working Group". He noted that this group wants to do an informational piece, as well as a survey to see who is interested in having hens in town. There is a whole process that the group follows, and residents would have to go through a class and be certified. He offered to send the Commissioners this information to review, to which the Commissioners agreed. The Administrator asked if people who answered the survey would be required to put their names and addresses on the survey. Commissioner Kasko replied affirmatively.

Commissioner Bianco Bezich stated that she has heard from residents expressing concerns about how to approach the police and fire departments regarding various types of issues. She is suggesting the creation of a Police Chief's Advisory Committee, for which the Commissioners would submit names of people to be involved. She stated that she has worked up a draft resolution to implement this group. Mayor Rochford noted that this could help in getting the word out on what the Police Department has done to react to various issues. Commissioner Kasko indicated that there used to be a group similar to this – Traffic and Pedestrian Safety (TAPS), although it was not a formal group. Commissioner Bianco Bezich noted that because this group would be authorized by a resolution and not an ordinance it could be flexible and be a participant/interested party membership only. They would discuss topics such as dogs, bikes downtown, use of helmets, race and ethnicity, domestic violence, etc. This group would meet with the Police Chief. The Commissioners agreed to adding this resolution. The Police Chief stated that he envisioned this as a learning exercise for the department. There are issues that we are not made aware of and this would be a bi-lateral way to help the residents and they could help us.

Next, the Commissioners reviewed a request to vacate land. A resident has reached out to the Borough regarding an ordinance from 1972 that vacated land between Longwood Drive and Hillside Lane. It seems that while the Commissioners at that time adopted the ordinance, the vacation never took place, at least not on the tax maps, which means the property is still assigned to the Borough. We are not sure why this did not occur. The Administrator asked the Solicitor for his advice, who noted that each property would have to go to the center of the property being vacated. The owner would then

have to have a new meets & bounds survey done to submit to the County at either their costs or the Borough's cost. Commissioner Kasko asked if this came from one of our own offices? The Administrator indicated that it came from the nephew of one of the homeowners affected. She then asked if the Borough needs to take this property back and maintain it ourselves, or do we have to talk to all the owners to see who is interested in the property. The Solicitor advised that each of the owners would have to be talked with about this. Commissioner Bianco Bezich asked if the property belongs to the property owners already because they have been maintaining it all this time. Commissioner Kasko recommended getting more information, then go back to each of the property owners to make sure they understand that their taxes would be going up. He further suggested talking about it again at the next work session. The Commissioners agreed.

The April 13-2021 Commissioner Meeting agenda was reviewed. No changes were made at this time.

Commissioner Bianco Bezich provide an update from the Partnership for Haddonfield, LLC (PfH). She specifically noted that the job descriptions for their employees are being updated. Additionally, "Girls Day Out" is coming up on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Marketing Committee has communicated to businesses the importance of being open during events. They have also put out a survey on how to help the businesses stay open for events. Commissioner Kasko asked if there has been any work done to their budget to possibly use the retainment grants to help businesses more with COVID expenses. Commissioner Bianco Bezich replied that she has been working with PfH since the start of COVID on ways to help cover these expenses, as well as working with landlords to help with various issues at the buildings. PfH has been working on micro-grants to businesses and they are working on overhauling the recruitment and retention grants.

The Administrator announced that the Lullworth Hall cameras have been smashed and there has been more damage at the building. The Police Chief has suggested putting fencing there – 8' fence at a cost of \$2,200 and then \$150 per month thereafter. Mayor Rochford asked if this was a chain link fence, to which the Administrator replied affirmatively. Commissioner Kasko stated that he would like to think about this before making a decision. He understands that the preservation of the building is paramount, but he has concerns about this type of fencing. The Solicitor asked if the Historic Preservation Commissioner would approve such a measure. The Administrator advised that this is temporary for the safety of the building. Commissioner Bianco Bezich stated that we would need to get multiple quotes. Commissioner Kasko asked to be kept in the loop on this subject, but he didn't want to make a decision tonight and asked if this is the best and most cost-effective way. Mayor Rochford noted that this is something that we should do. Commissioner Kasko stated that he felt there would be blowback about fencing, he want to make sure this is the right decision and to be able to justify this decision. Commissioner Bianco Bezich commented that we need to strategize for long term preservation and that she is looking into a potential grant that can be used. Mayor Rochford asked if this could be done administratively. The Administrator replied that it could once quotes were obtained. Commissioner Kasko asked if the cameras had been replaced. The Administrator replied that they were in the process of replacement.

The Administrator then reviewed the draft 2021 Budget documents provided to the Commissioners. Depending upon various approvals, the tax rate to the residents would go up between \$50 per average household. She reviewed various reasons for the increases – election fees, tipping fees, COVID costs, etc. She also reviewed the proposed capital improvements list. She then talked about the two possibilities for passage. It could be introduced at the next meeting with the public hearing and adoption the night of the election, or the process could begin after the election by the next Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Kasko stated that he had a couple of questions that he would discuss with the Administrator directly and acknowledged that it could be hard to adopt the budget prior to election. Commissioner Bianco Bezich expressed concerns about how quickly a new Board of Commissioners could be up and running after the election to be able to adopt a budget. The Administrator advised that if the questions are easy to answer, then we can deal with them and introduce the Budget at the April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, possibly amend at April 27<sup>th</sup> meeting, and then adopt on May 11<sup>th</sup>. Commissioners agreed to review and get back to her by the end of the week.

The Administrator then advised the Commissioners that the Community Development Director also needs to be appointed as the Borough's Flood Plain Administrator and asked if they would prefer to discuss this in closed session. The Commissioners agreed to discuss it in the closed session when they talked about other appointments.

As there were no further topics to discuss in open session, Mayor Rochford made a motion at 8:21 p.m. to go into closed session via ZOOM to discuss board and employee appointments. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kasko and approved unanimously.

The Commissioners returned from closed session at 8:56 p.m. where the motion had included adjourning that meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Deanna Bennett, RMC  
Borough Clerk