

WORK SESSION OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2017

The Work Session of September 18, 2017 was called to order at 7:14 p.m. in Room 201 and the open public notice announcement was read by the Borough Administrator. In attendance were Mayor Rochford, Commissioner Kasko, and Commissioner Moscatelli, the Administrator, the Borough Solicitor and the Borough Clerk.

The Administrator opened the public comment portion of the meeting.

The Borough Solicitor reviewed the draft Irresponsible Dog Ordinance that he prepared at the direction of the Commissioners. Basically, if there is a 3rd instance of a nuisance item you can be declared irresponsible. Additionally, if two instances of more severe cases occur, i.e. biting, mauling, etc., then the owner can be declared irresponsible. This designation can be for six months to five years, but could be whatever the Commissioners determine it should be. The Court can impose other requirements, i.e. obedience program, outside pen installed, etc. The Solicitor then read through each of the items as to what a pet owner cannot do. Specifically discussed was how long a dog could be in a closed vehicle, either hot or cold. The Commissioners then reviewed the current standards for what time frame is too long for pets in hot cars. The Solicitor stated that he would do more research online for information about how quickly a car can heat up. Commissioner Moscatelli asked if it was necessary to list the ways an owner can neglect their pet. The Solicitor replied that this provides items for which this ordinance could be applied. Mayor Rochford asked what the time frame between incidents is required before a pet owner could be named as irresponsible. The Solicitor replied that this would be up to the Commissioners. He then asked the Commissioners if they were good with the lists of two and three instances as outlined in the ordinance. The Administrator noted that for this ordinance a resident will have to be willing to file a charge against a pet owner. Commissioner Kasko expressed his concerns over the fact that he expected to have an ordinance that dealt with dogs mauling children, but this has gone so far as to also address dogs chasing cars. The Commissioners then talked about how this designation should be per household, not per pet. It was noted that if the penalty is even only for a 6 month period, then it is most likely they would not be able to get that same pet back afterwards. The Administrator noted that the question is who would keep track of how many times there are instances reported per household. Commissioner Moscatelli asked if it could be done in GovPilot. The Borough Administrator suggested removing the reference to leaving pets in cold cars. It was agreed to review the ordinance further and discuss again at the next work session.

Mayor Rochford stated that he would prefer that the Board vacancies be discussed in closed session as this deals with personnel issues. It was agreed to move this discussion to the closed session to be held at the end of the meeting.

The Borough Solicitor then reviewed his changes to the Collingswood Ordinance for abandoned properties. He also provided a summary the New Jersey Abandoned Properties Act. Specifically mentioned were the costs and who recoups what amounts. It was specifically noted that issues arise when the amount owed exceeds the value of the home. Commissioner Moscatelli stated the hope is that when it comes down to it, the owners will take actions once they are told what we can do through this ordinance

if they don't step up and do something with the property. The Commissioners agreed to introduce this ordinance at the September 26th Commissioner Meeting.

The Administrator provided an update to the Commissioners on the status of the Strategic Plan. She noted that there are focus group meetings set up with various town organizations throughout October. Once the focus groups are finished we can put out the survey to the residents for their input. The public meetings will be at the end of October. Commissioner Moscatelli asked if she wanted the Commissioners to be present at any of these meetings. The Administrator replied that there was no need for any of them to attend.

The Visioning Plan status was then provided by the Administrator. There is a follow up meeting on September 25th with the businesses where we will be talking about various topics – benches, outdoor eating areas, planters, etc. There will be examples of alternative to what is currently done in Haddonfield. A focus of this meeting will be to obtain feedback from the attendees, then a plan will be drafted and reviewed with Commissioners. The Administrator noted that some items will have to go through the Historic Preservation Commissioner (HPC) for approval, i.e. design features such as lighting, and pointed out that currently the outdoor table and chairs have to be approved by them. She is hoping to have plan to take to the HPC in either November or December. Commissioner Moscatelli asked if she would like to have Commissioners join at any of these meetings. The Administrator replied that she did not, as it was just the data gathering portion of the plan.

The September 26th agenda was reviewed. The Administrator advised the Commissioners of a request from the Police Department for a minor change to Chapter 232 to allow for temporary parking changes, such as the temporary permit program authorized by resolution around the high school during construction. The Commissioners agreed to add this to the agenda. It was also agreed to remove the Idle Free and Walk to School proclamations as they have not been requested the last few years.

Commissioner Kasko stated that there were no new items to discuss from the Partnership for Haddonfield, LLC (PfH).

Mayor Rochford made a motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel issues, contract discussions and Bancroft negotiations at 8:06 p.m. Commissioner Moscatelli seconded the motion, which was then approved unanimously.

At 9:06 p.m. the Commissioners returned from closed session.

Commissioner Kasko then asked for historical information regarding the Municipal Alliance Coordinators. He will be scheduling a meeting with the Administrator in the near future to review this organization in more detail. The Commissioner stated that he wants to focus on the opiate addiction.

Commissioner Kasko made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mayor Rochford, which was then approved unanimously by all the Commissioners.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deanna Bennett, RMC
Borough Clerk